Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 67 | MONDAY MARCH 21, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

POLL RESULTS

Do you support the idea of hosting some of the Japan tsunami and earthquake victims here in the CNMI?

Yes	163
No	17
No opinion	10

Sunday, March 20, 2011

INSIDE

Local Culture

The preservation of local traditions and cultures on Rota is now possible with the establishment of the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center.

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Allied Response

The U.S. and European nations pounded Moammar Gadhafi's forces and air defenses with cruise missiles and airstrikes Saturday.

World...Page 16

Historic Calamity

There are events in history that sear themselves into the world's collective imagination, and enter the realm where myth meets heartbreaking reality.

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Implementation of new medical referral regs suspended. PAGE 3
CUC relocates water, wastewater offices. PAGE 5

EPA's radiation monitor now on Saipan, but CNMI asks feds for more devices

» No threats of radiation, food is safe

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A radiation monitor arrived on Saipan Saturday night while a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expert who will set up the device was expected to be on island last night.

The Fitial administration is also asking the federal government to send in more monitoring devices to the islands to better monitor not only the air for radiation but also incoming fresh seafood and other food products, other consumer items and passengers from Japan which is still dealing with radioactive leaks from its quake-damaged nuclear power plan reactors.

Increased surveillance is being taken only as precautionary measure, and not because of imminent danger.

Officials said on Saturday and Sunday that food in the CNMI is safe for consumption.

The CNMI government also said there are no threats of radiation that would pose any danger to the CNMI, based on assurances from federal agencies.

See **RADIATION** on **Page 4**

Tudela out, Mafnas in as DPS commissioner

PRECAST TECHNOLOGY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Black Micro Construction employees work on pre-stressed beds, which mold precast concrete that is now commonly used in construction projects, at the Hawaiian Rock Products quarry near the Saipan airport on Friday afternoon. Black Micro and Sandy Beach Homes LLC will be donating these pre-stressed beds once the Sandy Beach housing project in Chalan Kanoa is done. Inset shows, from left, Sandy Beach Homes consultant Juan Carlos Benitez, Triple J Enterprises founder and president Robert H. Jones, Black Micro senior project manager Jack Travers, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

See story on Page 2

Tudela

Mafnas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday removed Santiago F. Tudela as Department of Public Safety commissioner and named Department of Corrections Secretary Ramon C. Mafnas as the new DPS commissioner.

See DPS on Page 4

Modified work hour cuts, tax rate revisions mulled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government employees earning $18,000 a year or less may be exempted from work hour cuts and no across-the-board salary cuts in fiscal year 2012, overtime pay may be further reduced, agency budgets could be transferred, and tax rate

See **MODIFIED** on **Page 4**

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Local

SANDY BEACH HOMES

Construction technology to be turned over to CNMI govt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government will be a recipient of free pre-stressed beds that is used to mold precast concrete which is ideal for construction projects.

Once Black Micro Construction is done building the Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project on Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa, they will leave the "molders" of precast concrete with the CNMI government.

Black Micro and Sandy Beach Homes officials gave Gov. Benigno R. Fitial a brief tour of the area where the pre-stressed beds are located on Friday afternoon.

"This is magic because it produces slabs in a very short period of time. If it (concrete) is poured today, tomorrow, they will have the slabs," said Fitial, wearing a yellow hard hat just like anybody else, at the tour of the facility.

Precast concrete is produced by casting concrete in a reusable mold which is then cured in a controlled environment which, in this case, is at the Hawaiian Rock Products quarry near the Saipan International Airport.

The concrete is then brought to the site of the Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa, and lifted into place.

Black Micro, which is the contractor building Sandy Beach Homes, is getting its cement products from Hawaiian Rock Products.

Robert H. Jones, founder and president of Triple J Enterprises and Triple J Saipan Inc. which own Sandy Beach Homes, said they will turn over to the CNMI government—free of charge—the pre-stressed beds so it can use it for government-funded construction projects such as for schools and homesteads.

Jones said this is an additional construction asset that the CNMI government can tell investors about.

He said this construction technology's contribution to the island will be much more than the $150,000 to $200,000 spent in having these pre-stressed beds on Saipan.

Jones said this is an amount that the government or a construction company need not spend to have precast concrete for their projects.

Black Micro senior project manager for Sandy Beach Homes, Jack Travers, and Sandy Beach Homes consultant, Juan Carlos Benitez, along with Jones and Fitial, explained the benefits of using precast concrete in construction projects.

Travers said the use of precast concrete as opposed to using site casting of concrete speeds up the completion of any construction project.

The forms used in a precast plant or work area such as the one made by Black Micro at the Hawaiian Rock Products quarry, may be reused hundreds to thousands of times before they have to be replaced.

"It expedites the construction process because we're able to put the components together here in the yard while we're still building on site… It's a real benefit to us during the construction process for schedule and having this facility enables us to maintain some quality control and for future benefit of other projects. Having a facility like this makes it easy to do all kinds of construction whether it's pre stressed planks or precast walls for building schools, for example, and even precast beams and telephone poles," Travers said.

This is the first time that pre-stressed beds are made in the CNMI. Black Micro said it has been using this construction technology in Guam for years.

Meanwhile, Jones said the construction of the Sandy Beach Homes is about 25 percent complete.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Black Micro Construction employees work on a construction crane at the site of the Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Laulau on Friday afternoon. The housing project is using precast concrete made from pre-stressed beds at the Hawaiian Rock Products quarry near the Saipan airport.

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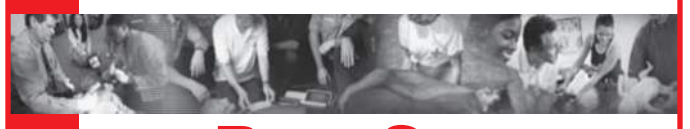

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CNMI citizen corps

Implementation of new medical referral regs suspended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration suspended the implementation of the new medical referral regulation after heeding appeals from Tinian and Rota lawmakers.

The new regulation for the CNMI medical referral program came into effect last Feb. 1 and it called for a stop in subsistence allowance for both patients and their escorts, and transferred to the municipalities the cost of inter-island referrals, among others. It also cut other benefits in the program including transportation costs and other services.

Demapan

The emergency regulation, according to the Department of Public Health, is needed to ensure the fiscal viability of the Medical Referral program and patients' medical care and treatment.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* the decision of the executive branch.

"At the request of the first and second municipalities [Rota and Tinian], the administration has decided to suspend such policy for the remainder of FY 2011. We will restore the policy in FY 2012 in an effort to afford the two municipalities with ample time to adjust their expenditure plans to take on this responsibility," Demapan confirmed yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the decision was made after a meeting recently between then-acting governor Eloy Inos, Public Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, medical referral program director Ron Sablan, and officials from the delegation and municipalities.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu, chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, lauded the administration's decision saying this will give the delegation more time to identify funds for the municipalities.

"Without the appropriation for our municipalities, it would be hard to refer our sick people for medical treatment due to lack of funding," said Ayuyu, adding that because funding for FY 2011 has been set prior to the promulgation of the new policy, the program may suffer because of funding shortage.

Due to the suspension, medical referral patients from Rota and Tinian will continue at present. "This means that the program cost will still be covered by the DPH until end of fiscal year."

The cancelled regulation indicated that for the transportation costs, patients are required to pay 100 percent of the airfare if their annual income is $50,000 or more while those earning $25,000 to $50,000 will pay 50 percent of the airfare. The other half will be shouldered by the program. Those patients with income below $25,000 or falls under the indigent level as a family unit, transportation cost will be covered in full by the program.

The shelved regulation also indicated that designated family escort will pay 50 percent of the least expensive roundtrip air transportation to selected destination of patient. The regulation pointed out that no escort will be authorized if patient or designated escort made over $50,000 within the last 12 months prior to approval.

Subsistence allowance was supposed to be also no longer available to both medical referral patients and escorts due to budget constraints.

For inter-island air transportation costs, these were transferred to the jurisdiction of the respective mayor's account.

Demapan earlier said that the medical referral program has been the government's largest expenditure over the years. With the current state of the government's finances, it is unable to administer the program in the same manner as previous years.

DPH spent $16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four years—from FY 2006 through 2009.

In FY 2010, the government expended more than $8 million in its medical referral program, an amount described as the highest incurred in the last several years. The big shortfall is due to the fact that more and more people are dropping their medical insurance that forced the government to shoulder bigger expenses.

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2008	Jeep Wrangler X-Sport	23,962	$20,995	2006	Hyundai Tucson GL	65,104	$10,995
2009	Hyundai Tucson GL	6,876	$17,995	2006	Ford Escape XLT	87,769	$9,995
2008	Hyundai Tucson GL	68,305	$13,995	2006	Hyundai Tucson GL	92,184	$8,995
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Fitial to rely on physical therapy for 90 days

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has been back on island since early Wednesday morning last week, will have to rely on physical therapy for 90 days or three months and see whether he will still need to undergo another spinal surgery.

"I am okay, I feel good," Fitial said on Friday as he came to see a construction technology brought by Black Micro Construction and Sandy Beach Homes, at the Hawaiian Rock Products quarry near the airport.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Fitial has been back at work since returning from Los Angeles, California on Wednesday.

"There's no telling at this time whether he will go on medical leave three months from now. That will be determined after the completion of the 90 days of physical therapy," he said.

The governor spent a week of treatment and assessment at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. At the recommendation of his physician, Dr. Jeffrey Wang, the executive director of the UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center, Fitial's scheduled spinal procedure was called off for at least the next three months.

Following the 90-day period, another MRI will be ordered to determine whether or not spinal surgery on Fitial will still be necessary.

The governor is hopeful that the prescribed medication and physical therapy will be able to decompress his inflamed and tight lumbar Nos. 4 and 5. The governor was experiencing difficulty and challenges in his mobility because of the inflammation.

In 2006, Fitial had neck surgery at the UCLA Medical Center to correct his spinal stenosis, a narrowing of the spinal canal that places pressure on the spinal cord. He also had another surgery to address a similar condition affecting his lower back. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Bordallo works with White House, EPA to secure air sensors

WASHINGTON, D.C.–Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that the White House, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will provide Guam with two portable air sampling sensors to monitor atmospheric radioactivity.

The congresswoman and her staff participated in a daily interagency conference call to discuss the crisis in Japan with federal representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of State, and other agency representatives. During the call, it was identified that there was a gap in the nation's atmospheric radiological detection program in the Western Pacific.

In working with the White House and the EPA, there will now be an immediate deployment of sensors to Guam to better prepare our region in the event of a radiological emergency. The deployment of these sensors does not reflect an imminent threat to Guam's air and water quality. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and National Weather Service continue to indicate that harmful levels of radiation in Japan will not reach Guam.

"Although radiation emissions from Japan's nuclear reactors do not present an immediate risk to Guam, I will continue to work with federal officials to monitor the crisis as it unfolds," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "These sensors will improve our region's preparedness and our ability to respond to radiological emergencies. I commend the White House and the EPA for their swift action in helping Guam secure these sensors which are critical to keeping our people safe." ***(PR)***

GOLD MEDALISTS MONETH G. DEPOSA

Do Re Mi's gold medal winners from the Tumon Bay Music Festival pose with their parents and teachers after their arrival from the recently concluded competition in Guam.

RADIATION

From Page 1

The governor's office also said no radiation has been detected on passengers or cargo entering the CNMI as of yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that once the EPA radiation monitor is set up and air samples are collected, said "EPA will be directly monitoring the readings via satellite feed."

The press secretary said the administration anticipates hearing back from the federal government on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request for radiation isotope identification devices to augment the portable radiation devices that U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are currently using.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, for his part, said federal officials from the White House down have assured him that the CNMI is not in danger.

He also commended Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos on his very professional and well-organized response to the Japan disaster and for his creation of a task force "to follow what's happening and is prepared to take action if necessary."

Sablan said he alerted EPA early last week on the need to monitor radiation levels in the CNMI, as the agency was reported to be doing for Guam.

This is the same "deployable monitoring system" that the task force has been saying.

The device takes air samples to detect increased levels of radiation and relays the information by satellite.

Similar equipment has also been installed in Guam, Alaska on the Aleutian Islands, in Hawaii, and on the U.S. west coast.

"So, people in the Northern Marianas should know that we are receiving the same level of federal attention as every other U.S. area that could be in harm's way," Sablan said.

Once the Saipan monitor is operating, people will be able to see the actual data as it is being recorded at http://www.epa.gov/radiation/rert/radnet-data.html, Sablan added.

"I do want to emphasize, however, that this is only a precautionary measure. It does not indicate that the federal government expects any radiation hazard in the Marianas," he said.

CNMI devices down

CNMI Division of Customs Services director Jesus Muna, in a phone interview, said customs and quarantine inspectors currently rely on two dosemeters—small devices that are attached to inspectors' shirts as they inspect incoming cargo.

A dosemeter is a device for measuring doses of ionizing radiation.

Muna said one dosemeter is used at the Saipan airport, and another at the Saipan seaport.

He said these instruments are not enough to monitor incoming items from Japan and other areas.

"Because of the sensitivity of the issue of radiation from Japan, we have begun monitoring items from Japan. But we are not predicting that radiation will reach us," he said.

Muna also said that Customs' portable X-ray machine has been "down" for some four weeks now.

"We're asking for financial support from federal homeland security to have it fixed. It costs a lot of money," Muna said, when asked for the amount that Customs needs to bring the machine back to working condition.

Food safety

The Japanese government is considering halting the sale of food from farms near the Fukushima nuclear power plant after abnormally high levels of radiation were found in milk and spinach, CNN reports.

That's because very small amounts—far below the level of concern—of radioactive iodine have been detected in tap water in Tokyo and most prefectures near the Fukushima Daiichi plant damaged by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11.

Fitial and the CNMI Nuclear Task Force received a White House multi-agency briefing Saturday morning.

The governor pointed out that there is mounting concerns on the inbound shipment of fresh seafood coming from Japan.

But Food and Drug Administration commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg, according to the task force, assured the CNMI that there are no indications of food contamination in the U.S. territories.

"Products already in your community are already safe. The produce and seafood you have should not be a concern," the task fore quoted Hamburg as saying.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, according to the task force, said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has no reason to suggest that the meat, poultry and egg products it regulates are unfit for consumption.

"We monitor and we inspect imports. Should we believe any threats arise, we have processes in place to take care of that," the task force quoted Vilsack as saying.

Hamburg also said there are no food commodities coming from the area affected by the nuclear incident. He said they know where the imported goods are, and what they need to do to assess any threats to food safety.

Besides Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and his key staff also joined in the White House multi-agency briefing with Vilsack, Hamburg, director of intergovernmental affairs at the White House Cecilia Munoz, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and Homeland Security deputy commissioner of Customs and Border Protection David Aguilar.

The CNMI Nuclear Task Force and the administration reiterated that there's no need to panic. Besides the 1,500 miles to 1,700 miles distance between the CNMI and Japan's Fukushima area where the damaged nuclear reactors are, there are also other factors that make it close to impossible for radiation to reach the CNMI, including wind direction and weather conditions, the task force said.

MODIFIED

From Page 1

brackets may be revisited.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said these are just among the options that the Fitial administration is looking at to balance its FY 2011 budget, as well as generate additional revenue and cut costs in FY 2012.

Government employee layoff remains as a last resort to cut costs, he said, even as the administration prepares to cut by 9 percent to 10 percent the monthly allotment to agencies starting in April.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said although there has already been a reduction in overtime pay costs, the administration looks at further cuts in this area.

Those earning $18,000 or less annually may also be allowed to receive 80 work hours per payroll in 2012, instead of the current 64 hours because of a 16-hour pay cut.

"Folks in that salary range are really getting the bigger cut in proportion to the others (receiving higher salary) because we're dealing with absolute dollars. We're looking at the payroll costs right now and studying different options. But I don't think that were going to do it across-the-board right now," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

The administration is also considering revisiting the tax rate for low-income employees as opposed to reducing their wages.

But Inos said if there's any tax rate adjustment, it will cover not only government employees but all earners in the CNMI.

"Adjustment in the tax rate is just one aspect, but I just told you that the whole idea is to balance the CNMI budget. And the adjustment in rate does not only address the CNMI government but it also affects the general public… The whole idea is for those folks who are paying less, who are earning less, should pay less," he added.

With still months to go before FY 2012 which starts on Oct. 1, other options will still be considered.

As of now, the administration estimates that the original projected $120 million budget for FY 2012 could be further reduced, in consideration of the Japan quake and tsunami's impact on CNMI tourism. Japan is the CNMI's major tourism market.

The administration has less than two weeks to go to meet the April 1 deadline to submit a 2012 budget package to the Legislature.

DPS

From Page 1

Tudela disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he received on Friday at 4:30pm Fitial's letter, thanking him for his service and appointing Mafnas as the new DPS commissioner.

Tudela said the governor did not indicate the specific reason why he's removing him.

"Maybe he wants changes. I respect the governor's decision," he said.

Tudela, however, stated that he was hoping Fitial should have talked to him personally before replacing him.

"But it's okay. What can we do, it's [commissioner's position] politics," he said.

Tudela said Lt. Gov. Eloy S Inos was supporting him to stay at DPS, but the governor wants to remove him and put Mafnas.

To the officers and civilian staff at DPS, Tudela urged them to continue serving the community and not be involved in politics.

"Only me and Mafnas are politically appointed. I ask the officers not to be involved in politics and continue in what they are doing that is right—serving the community. I wish them well with their new commissioner," he said.

Tudela served as commissioner without receiving compensation.

"I'm not being paid with all those years. I'm serving on pro-bono," said Tudela, adding he will go back to private life.

In the letter, Fitial stated that he and Lt. Gov. Inos are grateful for the service he has provided the Commonwealth.

Fitial said he knows that Tudela will work constructively to have a smooth transition to the best of the department as well as the Commonwealth.

Tudela assumed as DPS commissioner in August 2008 when Fitial terminated Claudio K. Norita as commissioner.

Tudela used to serve as DPS commissioner under the administration of then governor Juan N. Babauta.

When confirmed by the Senate, Mafnas will be the fifth DPS commissioner under the Fitial administration.

It is not clear yet who will replace Mafnas as DOC secretary. Sources said, the administration named Corrections Officer Arnold Seman as acting DOC secretary.

TO CUT EXPENDITURES, IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE

CUC relocates water, wastewater offices

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantruibune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. relocated its water and wastewater offices to save on expenditures and for proper planning and coordination of the division activities.

CUC water and wastewater division manager Mariano Iglecias said the new office location is at Sadog Tasi Treatment Facility.

The relocation, he said, will allow supervisors and managers to be close to the operations and will enable the assemblage of staff for proper planning, scheduling, briefing, and debriefing of daily operational activities.

"This new location also gives operations more flexibility to store heavy equipment and tools in a secured area," said Iglecias.

Water and wastewater division mainly involves system operations.

For example, the water treatment operators, distribution repair crews, wastewater collections, and treatment operators receive their daily tasks to ensure the water is treated and pumps are working, leaks are repaired, sewer lift stations, and treatment plants are checked and operating within permit conditions.

These offices monitor daily all water and wastewater systems and communicate field information back to the engineering division for technical support. Also, system upsets or problems encountered in the field are communicated into our trouble desk to advice customers of the return of services.

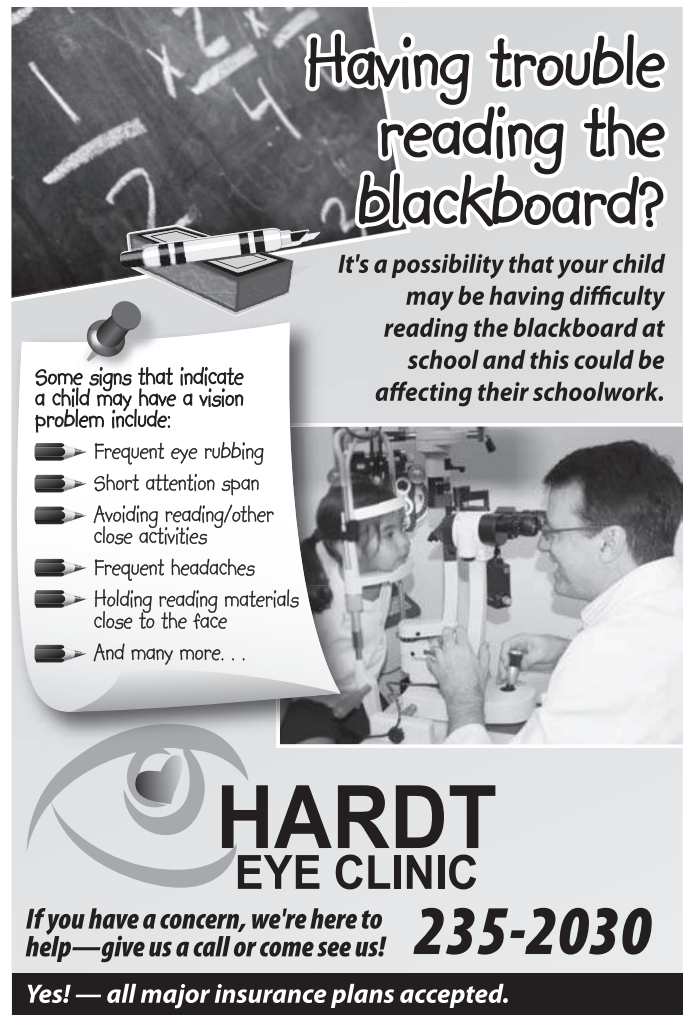
According to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae the decision to move the division to the treatment facility is also in part with the agency's efforts to cut expenses and improve customer service.

"This relocation will also save driving time for the personnel in this division. Employees had to drive from Sadog Tasi to the main office in Dandan to meet with their supervisors. The time saved driving to and from will now be dedicated to addressing customer concerns," he said, adding that he humbly asks for the community's patience and understanding as it perseveres in its efforts to improve services.

The list of offices and supervisors for the water and wastewater division include water treatment and distribution direct responsible charge led by Bernard Keremius; distribution repair led by Melvin Tudela; pump and motor mechanical, Raymond Itibus; electrical, George Babauta; metering, Glenn Dikito; distribution maintenance, Glenn Villagomez; wastewater operations, Richard Wasser; Sadog Tasi treatment plant direct responsible charge, Jesse Randles; Agingan treatment plant direct responsible charge, Carlton Stevens; southern collections direct responsible charge, Dean Renninger; northern collections direct responsible charge, George Blas; and water and wastewater division manager, Mariano Iglecias.

The new offices have also new contact numbers: water/wastewater 322-5030 to 34; facsimile 322-5036; Sadog Tasi treatment plant, 322-0736; water/wastewater pump repair shop, 322-4300.

RETIREMENT CEREMONY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Board of Education members and Public School System officials pose with legal office staffer Jacinta Q. Kapileo who was honored during Wednesday's special meeting. Kapileo is retiring after several years of serving the PSS and the board.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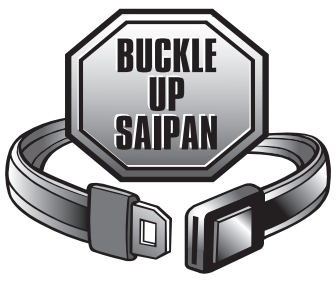

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Rota farmers want plan to develop sweet potato industry

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following the success of the inaugural Sweet Potato Festival on Rota, there is a need to come up with an action plan to enhance the production, marketing, and product development of the island's No 1 crop.

"The farmers want an action plan that can be implemented to help them to create a positive and productive end result for them and the CNMI as a whole," said Efrain Atalig, special assistant for administration at the Rota Mayor's Office.

About 40 farmers and other community members attended the series of workshops for the Sweet Potato Festival held at the As Paris Restaurant from March 15 to 18.

The festival's theme is "Eat Healthy, Eat Kamuti, Our Tradition, Our Pride, Our Economy."

The workshops included various topics such as food processing, marketing and product development, sweet potato for livestock feeds and forage, alternative energy sources, managing pests, organic pesticides, local and federal grants, as well as other funding opportunities.

According to Atalig, the action plan should also identify technical support from various government agencies and organizations.

"Having an available technical support will help educate local farmers about addressing issues," he said.

Agriculture consultant Isidoro Cabrera said the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services is always willing to provide technical assistance to local farmers.

According to Cabrera, an action plan is needed to come up with guidelines and involve various government agencies to enhance not just the sweet potato industry but also other agricultural commodities.

He noted, however, that Rota is "on the right track" as the island has been the main producer of sweet potato.

"Rota produces tons and tons of sweet potato because it grows round the year and it's a typhoon-proof crop," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cabrera added that other government agencies such as the Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Development Authority, and Division of Environmental Quality should come together and identify their roles and responsibilities to improve agriculture in the CNMI.

Aside from the workshops, a number of competitions, food demonstrations and selling as well as crop displays were also carried out at the Metkaon Luta Grounds.

Lawmaker wants passport office to extend service to Rota

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos wants the U.S. Passport Office to be able to serve Rota residents who want to apply or renew their passports.

In a letter to Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Santos (Ind-Rota) said several Rota residents have brought to her attention the "urgent need" for U.S. Passport Office to extend its services to the island due to exorbitant airline fare, car rental, food, and other expenses incurred when traveling to Saipan to apply or renew their passports.

"[T]he urgent need to extend passport service to the people of Rota cannot be overemphasized," Santos stated in her letter dated March 17.

Santos said the last time that the U.S. Passport Office conducted mobile passport services on Rota was in September 2010.

She disclosed that she already talked to U.S. Passport Office director Jenny C. Norita about this concern.

"In as much as they want to extend their services to Rota once again, they are hampered by the revised policy in government travel authorization," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Santos, the revised GTA allows the allotment of 50 percent per diem rate from its previous rate of 80 percent.

"The 50 percent per diem will not be financially enough to cover their expenses when they are here such as hotel accommodation and food," she said.

Should the U.S. Passport Office extend its services to Rota, Santos noted that it should be about two to three days to accommodate all passport applications of island residents.

"It should not only be a day but two to three days because the demand for the service is great," she added.

Wire fraud charge filed vs sales rep over reverse osmosis unit sale

The U.S. government filed on Friday in federal court an information charging one count of wire fraud against a sales representative of a California-based company that supplied the Commonwealth Health Center its reverse osmosis water purification system for the new hemodialysis facility.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley stated in the information that beginning in July 2002 and continuing through March 8, 2006 in the NMI and Los Angeles County, California, defendant Jesse Chung Wu, devised a scheme to defraud Saipan Ice & Water Company Inc. by means of "material false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises."

Wu is sales representative for Severn Services (STS), a Torrance, California-based company.

O'Malley said that on March 8, 2006, Wu sent a facsimile transmission falsely representing that a reverse osmosis water purification unit sold to Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc. for delivery to CHC, met the Food and Drug Administration standards called 510(K).

Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc. procured two reverse osmosis units from STS through Wu.

Prime contractor AIC Marianas Inc., which won the contract to build the hemodialysis building, had subcontracted a portion of the work—which included the furnishing of two reverse osmosis units—to Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc.

Early this month, the U.S. government filed a wire fraud complaint against Wu over the same transaction in which he allegedly received a $2,000 commission.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent, STS Management admitted that it has never manufactured reverse osmosis units that have the FDA 510(K) listing or certification.

Use of the non-FDA 510(K) reverse osmosis unit in dialysis treatment reportedly could have subjected the dialysis physicians to liability. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Live fire training at FDM, W-517

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S Military unit would be conducting military training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla and at W-517 on the following dates:

- Mar 21, 9:15am-9:30pm, W-517, VFA-115 military training
- Mar 22, 9:15am-1:45pm, W-517, VFA-115 military training
- Mar. 22-25, 9:15am-9:30pm, PDM, W-517, VFA-115 military training
- Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2010 from 7am-12am, 27 EFS military training

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Five students named champions of PSS-wide science fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Five students emerged champions in this year's Public School System Science Technology Electronic Mathematics Fair and will represent the Commonwealth in the upcoming science fair competition in Guam.

"The Ham of Smoking" entered by Koblerville Elementary School's Keona Rogopes was hailed first place winner in the kindergarten to first grade division, while Mount Carmel School's Lleyton Javier emerged gold medalist in the second to third grade division for his "Solar Powered Rover" entry.

For the fourth to fifth grade division, "Strength of a Magnet" submitted by Dandan Elementary School's Franco Masga received the highest rating from judges and will represent the division in the Guam competition.

The "Mouse Trap Car" submitted by Koblerville Elementary School's Hyun Joung Ahn was adjudged overall winner in the sixth to eighth grade division, while Tinian Junior/Senior High School's Alisha Shresta bagged the overall top prize for ninth to 12th grade division. Shresta's entry was called "Science Behind Tsunami."

This year marked the fourth time PSS held the STEM Fair which allows students to enhance learning and communication skills through engaging in hands-on activities, experimentation, research, and presentation.

According to Vina Claire Saures, PSS science/health program coordinator, there were 120 total entries in this year's competition from 18 public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and four from the private schools.

Saures said all participants were overall winners in their school level STEM Fair competitions.

She described this year's entries as more impressive and truly exciting.

"Every year, it just keeps getting more impressive. I've seen some pretty exciting posters and my first time to see those kinds," she told *Saipan Tribune* after yesterday's awarding rites at Marianas High School Gymnasium. The event started last Friday and which was opened for viewing and judging on Saturday.

Saures pointed that STEM Fair is important because it motivates students to enhance higher order thinking skills.

In her message last Friday, Saures said STEM Fair "is more than just selecting the best scientists or mathematicians. It is also focused on celebrating the effort and success of all our students."

Acting PSS associate commissioner for instruction and curriculum Lynnette Villagomez yesterday recognized the valuable contributions of parents and teachers to make the event possible and successful. She described all entries as outstanding and showed the greater involvement of parents.

Besides the overall winners, also recognized yesterday were the winners in respective contest categories in each division. These categories included life science, physical science, earth and space science, health nutrition and medical, technology and electronics, mathematics, and behavioral and social science.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The five overall winners in the CNMI Island-Wide STEM Fair pose with the competition's committee members after the awarding rites yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The students will represent the Commonwealth in the upcoming science fair competition in Guam.

Sports reporter falls prey to CK burglars thrice in 5-month period

Burglars struck thrice in a five-month period at the house of *Saipan Tribune* sports reporter Walter Cepeda-Sutherland located behind Sister Remedios School in Chalan Kanoa District 2.

Cepeda-Sutherland said yesterday he is willing to offer a cash reward if the neighbors come forward and help him find the burglars.

"I have reason to believe that more than one person may be involved. I believe the thieves live close by within walking distance and I also think that my neighbors may know some information," he said.

The last burglary occurred on Thursday night, March 17, in which a 32-inch Samsung LED TV 6000 series, Xbox 360 with Halo faceplate, and two controllers, a 25-foot insulated HDMI cable, and a Batman DVD were stolen. The items were estimated at over $1,200.

Cepeda-Sutherland said he only learned about the last burglary Friday at 9:30am when his uncle, who lives in the next room, woke him up and told him that his TV is gone.

He said the burglars managed to get inside the house by cutting a hole in the living room screen and opening the sliding door.

"They unhooked my flat screen TV and Xbox from the cable and walked right outside the door with the HDMI cable and controllers. I think there was a Batman DVD in the console at the time too," the sports reporter said.

The first burglary happened in late November 2010.

The burglar, however, failed to get anything as Cepeda-Sutherland caught him in the act. The burglar ran away, leaving the room in a mess.

Cepeda-Sutherland said he did not get a good look at the suspect, who managed to get inside the house by popping the screen of his bedroom window.

In December 2010, burglars took the victim's $120 cash out of his wallet he placed right next to where he was sleeping.

The burglar or burglars came in through the window screen of the back room, which is an empty room used mostly for storage.

"They broke the screen this time and stood on a bucket to get in the window. I was asleep at that time and they took just the cash out of my wallet," he said.

Cepeda-Sutherland said although these are the only three times that they noticed break-ins, he believes there may have been more occasions.

He added that since moving into the neighborhood, he also noticed that his red Gameboy DS and a bottle of Dolce & Gabbana cologne were also missing.

Cepeda-Sutherland reported all the three burglary incidents to the Department of Public Safety, but as of yesterday no one was arrested yet. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Reksid allegedly borrowed over $300K and sent it to west Africa

Franz B. Reksid, the Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary, allegedly borrowed over $300,000 from family and friends and sent the money to a person in west Africa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Reksid did not tell the lenders that the money was going to Africa to a person he met via the Internet.

O'Malley filed on Friday afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a superseding indictment against the 70-year-old Reksid.

The prosecutor said Reksid was charged with borrowing over $300,000 from family and friends, telling them the money was his and he would need just a few hundred or thousand more to "unlock" it.

"The money borrowed went via wire to west Africa, and has not been seen since," O'Malley said.

The original indictment charged Reksid with one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds. He allegedly solicited a bribe from a company that had wanted to land a contract with DPL.

The indictment alleged that the defendant solicited payment in the amount of $3,000 from the owner of a business seeking to obtain a contract with DPL.

A grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funded the contract. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CNMI citizen corps

Rota opens Chamorro Village Cultural Center

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Community members wait for the ceremonial opening of the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center located at the Deparment of Community and Cultural Affairs on Rota last March 19.

The preservation of local traditions and cultures on Rota is now possible with the establishment of the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center.

About 100 community members led by Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) attended the ceremonial opening of the cultural center located at the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Office last Saturday.

The Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center was funded by the grant from the Administration for Native Americans through the Association of Native Medicine and Culture or the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw.

In September 2010, the IAKN/MSKAF was awarded a $245,385 grant to establish cultural village centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

IAKN/MSKAF is a non-profit corporation created in 2007 to promote and support traditional healing and indigenous culture preservation through educational programs, community awareness, conferences and workshops, documentation, and publication of learning materials.

The cultural center was also in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs on Rota.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, president of the IAKN/MSKAF, said he is "very pleased and happy" with the opening of the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center, the first to be opened among the three islands.

"The main purpose of this cultural center is to continuously preserve and teach our younger generation our indigenous cultures and traditions, from the use of traditional medicine to crafts making and wood carving," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Cabrera noted that the cultural center, which will be supervised by IAKN/MSKF program coordinator Elizabeth A. Kani and DCCA resident director Henry S. Atalig, will reinforce the efforts being done by Rota residents to preserve their rich heritage.

"On Rota, the culture and traditions are still very alive and active. I saw it myself. The craftsmanship is there. They can carve using wood or stone, make handicrafts, all the things they can produce out of our local natural resources," he said.

IAKN/MSKF project director Manny F. Borja disclosed that many Rota cultural experts also graced the ceremonial opening.

"These cultural experts will be the one to come to the cultural center and conduct classes to teach our young ones about indigenous culture," he said.

Although the cultural center will be open seven days a week, Borja noted that classes will be offered only on Saturday morning. These classes differ every time, from weaving and coconut husking to wood and stone carving as well as preparing traditional medicine, he added.

Borja disclosed that they are scheduled to open the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Center on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Staff of the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw (IAKN/MSKAF) pose for a group photo during the ceremonial opening of the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center. From left, project director Manny F. Borja; program coordinator Elizabeth A. Kani; president Isidoro T. Cabrera; and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Rota director Henry S. Atalig.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES kindergarten registration ongoing

Oleai Elementary School kindergarten student registration for school year 2011-2012 will begin on April 5, 2011 and ends on April 30, 2011 from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kindergarten students must be born between Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 30, 2006. the following documents are required to be enrolled: Birth certificate, school entrance health certificate (updated), current school accident/ health insurance/ medical (updated), map of residence, and legal adoption/ guardian document (court issued)

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje hill north of Island Market (Calvo's) to Falughula and San Jose, Oleai. ***(PR)***

Veterinarian Tudor is off-island

Dr. Edgar Tudor, DVM, of Paradise Island Animal Hospital, has been called to Japan to assist with the care of the rescue dogs being used in the aftermath of the recent earthquake and tsunami there. It is unknown when he will return to Saipan. ***(PR)***

Tinian Sanitary landfill meeting for A&E design on March 23

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office will hold a public stakeholders meeting for the Architectural & Engineering design for the Tinian Sanitary landfill this Wednesday, March 23, 6pm at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria,

The public stakeholders meeting is in accordance with the requirements of RFP10-GOV-043.

The purpose of the stakeholder meeting is to discuss the project, gather information, identify concerns and meet with the general public and customers of the Tinian landfill.

For more information, please contact Mr. Roy Reyes or Ms. Nerissa Benavente at the CNMI Office of the Governor, CIP office at 664-2371. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on April 4-7

This is to let all veterans and all concern that on April 4-7, 2011, Tina San Augustine our Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and Ruth Coleman, executive officer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will be on Rota and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on veterans federal benefits. They will be also entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

Rota is April 4-5 2011 at 8:30-4:30 at the Rota WIA office and Saipan is on April 6-7, 2011 at 8:30-4:30 at the office of Military/ Veterans affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, please call Ruth Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 21, 2000

Key govt agencies may get additional funding

Last-minute changes are being made on the Fiscal Year 2000 budget that is expected to clear the House of Representatives today, the last day of the first regular session, according to members. House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta said they expect to increase funding for key agencies, such as the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College, police and public health under the budget proposal drafted by the Ways and Means Committee. Leftover funds not indicated in the package submitted by the Tenorio administration last year will be funneled to the budget of these agencies, he said.

CNMI receiving numerous foreign investment inquiries

Numerous inquiries received by the Department of Commerce from foreign investors are strong indication of the Northern Marianas' bright potentials to become the hub of Asian investments in the Western Pacific Region. The Economic Development Division disclosed that its foreign investments office has been receiving a handful of inquiries from off-island businessmen who are interested to put up businesses in the Northern Marianas. The commerce department receives numerous investment inquiries from businessmen from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. However, inquiries from foreign investors are all the CNMI gets right now since most of them never come back after learning of the $100,000 cash security deposit requirement, according to the economic development office.

Mar. 21, 2001

Need for environmental study cited for homestead program

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources underscored the need to conduct an environmental assessment to release a contract that will fully implement the Homestead Expansion program. In a report submitted to DLNR Secretary Joaquin Tenorio, the Division of Public Lands disclosed the assessment, along with the subdivision design for the proposed homestead site, is necessary to immediately enforce plans of expansion. Based on the Annual Progress Report submitted by each division, DPL stressed the importance of the environmental assessment to the release of a contract for the program.

CPA wants outstanding debts retired, too

Meddling by the Legislature and the government with the financial affairs of autonomous agencies like the Commonwealth Ports Authority, will compromise its ability to promote developmental programs. Citing its adverse effect in terms of loan agreements and bond floatation to fund Capital Improvement Projects, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said political interference will categorize an independent agency as an unstable organization. Mr. Salas urged the Legislature to look at the bigger picture to resolve whether to retire the indebtedness of Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to Commonwealth Development Authority.

Mar. 21, 2002

Assistive tech funding to be slashed

Federal funding for the Assistive Technology Project of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities will be reduced by 25 percent to $79,000 in 2003, and by Fiscal Year 2004, funding will be reduced to 50 percent or $53,000. This was disclosed by Assistive Technology Project Director Thomas J. Camacho, who added that if the U.S. Congress fails to pass an authorization appropriating money to continue the AT projects, it would be phased out in nine states and other projects would follow suit upon reaching the end of their 10-year funding cycle. This comes even as the U.S. House of Representatives' Education and Workforce Subcommittee holds a hearing today to assess the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.

BOE seeks principals' input in Inos evaluation

The State Board of Education approved last week the evaluation packet seen to gather multi-faceted information that would help the board decide on Dr. Rita H. Inos' fate as Education Commissioner for the Public School System. PSS spokesperson Robert Myers said the BOE also agreed to distribute optional survey forms to PSS school principals, to collect data pertaining to Inos' over-all management performance as administrator of the PSS.

PSS named key partner of US AG in promoting anti-violence

The CNMI Public School System was chosen as one of the key partners of the U.S. Attorney General in promoting campaigns against violence among families and children.

The partnership was announced by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan last Wednesday.

Sablan added that U.S. Attorney General for Guam and CNMI Alicia G. Limtiaco has also invited her to a conference which will focus on the goal to protect community members from any form of violence.

PSS, according to Sablan, is the only government agency from the Commonwealth that was named to the task force.

"The U.S. attorney general herself noted that she's been hearing a lot of good things about PSS in promoting anti-violence. She wanted to know what we're doing here and participate in the summit next month," she said.

Other members of the task force include Limtiaco, James Benedetto, Robert Torres, and two other non-profit organizations in the CNMI.

PSS has built a strong collaborative effort with each public school in fighting anti-bullying on campus and anti-sex violence among children and families.

"The U.S. attorney general wants PSS to be a key partner in this effort," she said.

She said Limtiaco's office is committed in working collaboratively with the community in combating domestic violence. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Coast Guard unveils tribute carabao statue

GUAM—Students from the University of Guam Basic Design Class joined an all hands gathering of U.S. Coast Guard personnel on Wednesday in a ceremony to unveil a painted carabao statue on the grounds of the Sector compound on Naval Base Guam. The colorful statue is painted in an island motif that represents the Coast Guard's missions, paying tribute to the Coast Guard's friendship with Guam and honoring fallen comrades.

During the ceremony, Captain Thomas M. Sparks, Sector Commander, recognized artist Jennifer Ada, the Navy League, Professor Jose Babauta, the student artists, and Petty Officer Spratt before a crowd of Coast Guard personnel. "This Carabao stands as a symbol of partnership between the Coast Guard, the Navy League, University of Guam, and the island itself."

The carabao statue, named "Coastie" by the Coast Guard Sector Guam Morale Committee, was acquired through the generosity of Ms. Ada and the U.S. Navy League. "Coastie" now joins Guam's other public carabao works of art as a proud symbol of the Coast Guard's history and connection with the community.

Boatswain's Mate First Class Kevin Spratt, who is stationed on Coast Guard Cutter SEQUOIA, homeported in Apra Harbor, created the design that was used to paint "Coastie." The design splits the carabao statue into a day and night side to depict the Coast Guard's 24-hours-a-day missions. On the daylight side, the Cutter SEQUOIA works a buoy under a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter. On the other side, a 110-foot patrol boat and 25 foot small boat patrol during a night search and rescue mission with a C-130 Hercules aircraft flying overhead. Both are numbered to depict Coast Guard aircraft lost recently, in honor of their fallen crews.

The students who painted the statue signed their names on the statue's base. The Territory of Guam seal, University of Guam seal, Navy League logo, and the Coast Guard Emblem appear in various locations on the statue. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUETD PHOTO

University of Guam Basic Design Class students pose with U.S. Coast Guard personnel during the unveiling ceremony of a painted carabao statue on the grounds of the Sector compound on Naval Base Guam.

Saipan piano student wins gold in Guam

Edward Minami, 12, the lone participant from Keynotes School of Music (KSM) to the Tumon Bay Music Festival 2011 in Guam brought home the gold medal.

Minami

It will be recalled that Zuriel Chua the first and also the lone piano student fielded by KSM at this prestigious Guam music competition 2009 won gold marking the beginning of the school's excellent performance in music competition.

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Minami, Edward has been a student at KMS since he was 6 years old. By the time Minami was 9 years old, he can satisfactorily play solo pieces by Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven and other great composers.

On rhythm and meter adjudication category, judges' comments include "great sense of tempo", "great sudden tempo change", "time and tempo changes were well-handled throughout" characterizing Edward's overall excellent piano performance at the competition.

The management, teachers, and staff of Keynotes School of Music congratulate Minami for an excellent performance. ***(PR)***

GCA members donate to Japan Club of Guam

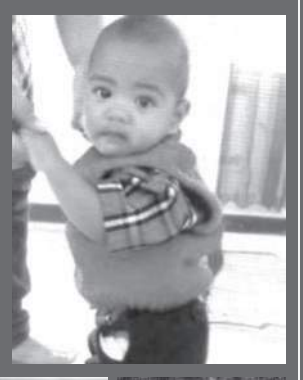
Maeda Pacific Corp. presented a check in the amount of $10,000 to the Japan Club of Guam to help in the humanitarian effort for the victims of the 8.9 earthquake and deadly tsunami that hit Japan last March 11. A check presentation was held during the Guam Contractors' Association general membership luncheon meeting at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa.

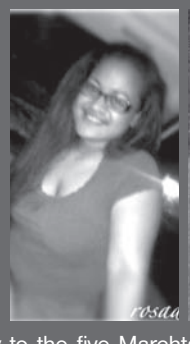
According to Tom Nielsen, president of Maeda Pacific Corporation, "it seemed like the right thing to do after seeing and hearing all the devastation in the media and the many lives lost in this tragic event. I also encourage other GCA members to help in this cause by making monetary donations to the Japan Club of Guam who will then turn over these funds to the Japanese Consulate office."

Other GCA members also presented checks to the Japan Club of Guam including:

- Black Construction, $5,000
- Hensel Phelps Construction Co., $2,000
- TG Engineers, $1,000
- Highway Safety Services, $1,000
- LMS, $1,000
- M80 Systems, $1,000
- Cassidy's, $1,000
- Island Tinting, $1,000
- Orion Construction, $700
- mazon Construction and Isla Paint & Roofing Supply, $400

5 MARCHTASTIC CELEBRANTS

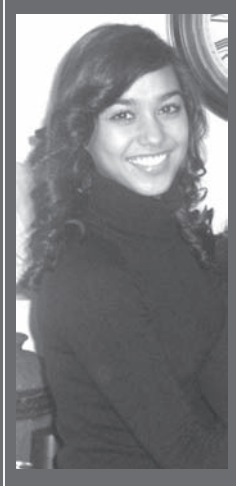




Happy, happy birthday to the five Marchtastic Celebrants: Elisha, CJ, Mardee, Rosa, and Manang. May the gracious hands of the Lord continually bless you all with more birthdays infilled with love, laughs, hope, and dreams to come. Much Love from y'alls BOOMBASTIC families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy Sweet 16th Birthday Janece Mae C. Salas. We love you! Greeting from Dad, Mom, Julia, and John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's so good to know someone special, who shares, my secrets, my laughter, my dreams and my cares. It's so good to know you Jenisha, my daughter and friend… through the years. Happy birthday Jenisha Jo Dubrall. We love you always and forever more!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID)

Inspection and Integrity Testing of Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and Connected Pipeline – CUC Rota, CNMI – Revision # 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting revised competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline within the secondary containment, as included in this solicitation.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and # 41 Rota Power Plant Integrity Inspection Program.

The Power Plant in Rota is located in Song Song Village near the Rota Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 28, 2011.**

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID),Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline, CUC Rota, Revision No.1" the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **April 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement &Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **April 1, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective bidders who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Invitation for Bid in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 67

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Do whatever it takes to cool N-reactors

Herculean efforts are being made at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant to prevent leaks of radioactive material from spreading.

Self-Defense Forces helicopters on Thursday dumped seawater on one reactor at the plant, while water cannon trucks also blasted water at the reactor's spent fuel rod pool to cool it down. Efforts to restore power at the plant are continuing.

We hope the SDF officials, police officers and power plant workers involved in the highly dangerous task of cooling the damaged nuclear reactors and spent fuel rods will safely accomplish their mission.

The plant has six nuclear reactors. The nuclear cores at the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 reactors are not being cooled sufficiently. Meanwhile, cooling functions at the storage pools for spent fuel rods at reactors Nos. 3 and 4 have failed, raising fears that this fuel might overheat.

In the worst-case scenario, the nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel would break down, possibly causing leakage of radioactive materials. The situation remains critical.

Using helicopters to dump seawater on the reactor was a desperate attempt to cool the storage pool.

The helicopters can only carry a limited amount of water; they would have to make more than 100 flyovers to fill the 12-meter-deep storage pool. The helicopter crews also risk being exposed to high levels of radiation when they fly over the reactors.

The water cannon trucks of the Metropolitan Police Department and the SDF will only have a limited effect. But by using various means at their disposal, the authorities are trying to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

Despite the incredible efforts being made, they do not appear to be turning the situation around.

The government has sought advice from nuclear power experts in dealing with the worsening problem. However, we think it might have to tap the expertise of specialists in other fields and the industrial sector to help bring the situation under control.

For instance, mobile water-spraying equipment used to fight fires at industrial complexes could be utilized to shoot water at the storage pool. These devices can spray large volumes of seawater higher and farther than the methods deployed so far.

As the serious situation drags on, criticism of the government's response is rising.

Residents living within a 20-kilometer radius of the plant were ordered to evacuate, while people living between 20 kilometers and 30 kilometers away were urged to stay indoors. Many Fukushima residents have fled the prefecture in the past few days, and finding places that can accommodate these evacuees has become a pressing task.

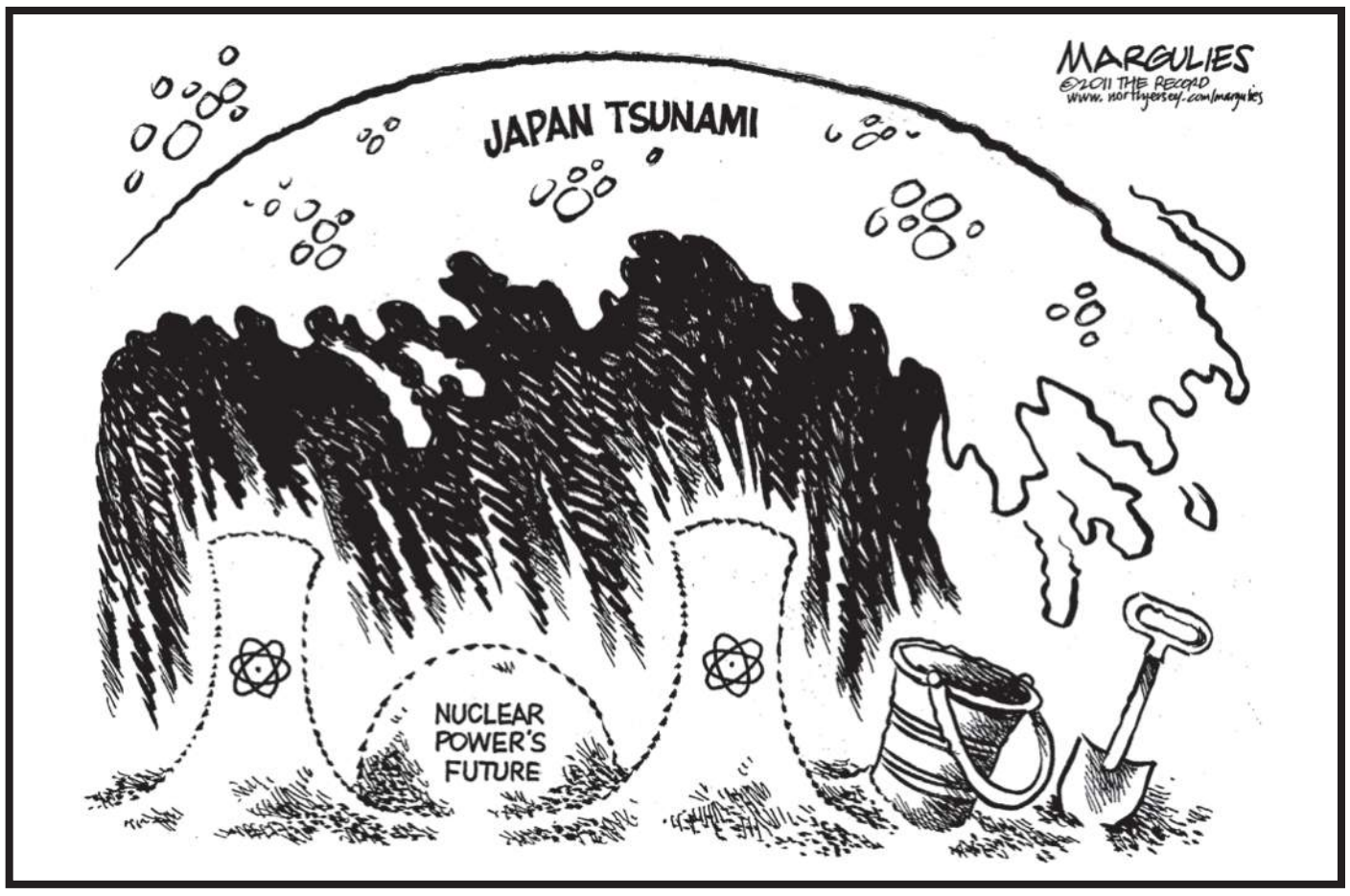
Food and heating fuel are piling up but not reaching people directly affected by the quake.

Some patients who were evacuated from hospitals near the nuclear plant have died due to a lack of medicine, and other causes, at facilities where they were taking shelter.

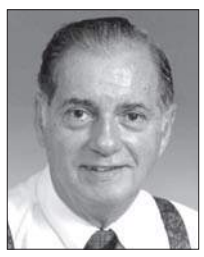
The prefecture is running out of daily necessities because some truck drivers are hesitant to transport goods to the stricken region.

Fukushima Gov. Yuhei Sato has called on the government, which issued the evacuation orders, to come up with measures to care for people who have left and those who are afraid to venture out their homes. Everything must be done to prevent these people from falling victim to secondary disasters.

(c) 2010, The Yomiuri Shimbun.



The day after….



By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

On March 15, 2011, the six' clock news announced that effective April 1, 2011, the CNMI and the United States have decided to part company. The CNMI will become an independent country. The United States instead will strengthen its ties with Guam and Palau. Because the CNMI is unhappy with the relationship with the U.S., there will be no federalization and the U.S. will stop all political association and all monetary support beginning April 1.

The news further explained that we, the people of the CNMI, have decided that we do not want to be part of the United States any longer because we are being harassed. So Congress has granted the CNMI its desire. From now on we are free to do whatever we wish.

To many of us that seems totally absurd. That could never happen. So we just ignored the news that evening and switched to another channel to watch our favorite program. But, alas, on April 1st, we wake up and see the consequences of what we have done.

On the way to taking my children to school, I drive by the Foods Stamp Office. One of the first to feel an instant reaction is the NAP or food stamp program recipients. As they line up for their monthly allotment, an attendant tells everybody: "Sorry, beginning today there is no money for food stamps. The U.S. has no more obligations to feed us. So everybody, please go home. I don't know what else to tell you." Thus about 12,000 or more food stamp recipients return home empty handed unable to buy daily necessities.

That same morning the PSS announces to all the students that there will be no more federally subsidized breakfasts and lunches. All students will have to bring their own food or go hungry. In addition, all federally funded programs including special education programs are being dropped, and teachers are being dismissed for lack of funds. This cutback of federal funds cuts across many of the PSS programs. From now on all PSS funding will have to come from our local government.

Meanwhile all the patients at the CHC have been told that Medicaid and Medicare will no longer pay their hospital or their private doctor bills. Pay cash or no more medical treatments. As I drive by the DEQ office, I notice the employees packing up their things and moving out. The same is happening at the Fish and Wild Life Office. I receive a call from a friend at the CRM. He asks me if I can find him a job because the CRM office has just closed.

The Council of Development Disabilities also closes its office and tells its handicapped clients that they can no longer be assisted. No more federal money. Later another friend from the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation calls and tells me that his office has closed also. The Workforce Investment Agency has dismissed all its employees and closed its door. Northern Marianas College has its budget cost drastically and all federal funding for education suspended.

I decide to go to the U.S. Post Office to pick up my mail, but when I arrive it is closed. From now on all mail is considered international and will take weeks to arrive. The cost for mail and packages will be charged at international rates.

When I try to call my friend in the United States, I am told that I cannot use the U.S. country code 1 to call. It will be an international call at a higher rate.

As I drive by the Horiguchi Building where the U.S. District Court is located, I notice furniture being taken out and loaded onto a truck. When I ask a guard what is happening, he tells me the U. S. District court has closed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and all the other U.S. government offices have also closed. They have no jurisdiction in the CNMI anymore.

When I arrive at my office I receive a call from the Commonwealth Ports Authority telling me that the federal government will no longer be having any business with the seaport and airport. Also the U.S. Coast Guard has been recalled back to Guam. I learn from Public Works that all CIP projects have been stopped because the money has to be returned to the U.S. government. We will have to repair all the roads and build other projects with our own money. There is no more EPA working for our benefit. The CUC is totally on its own.

But the real kicker comes when I learn there will be no more "stimulus money!" The millions we were expecting have vanished. All offices related to and funded by the U.S. government are closed. The CNMI is now totally dependent on its own resources.

I am not sure what the amount has been, but someone told me that it amounts to about $100 million yearly! Where is the CNMI going to get all this money? What are we going to do with no more U.S. government financial assistance and no more technical assistance?

As I sit in my office scratching my head about all of this, I suddenly receive a call from a friend screaming at the top of his lungs. He is angry and in disbelief. He has been refused travel to Guam because his passport has become invalid. Yes, all U.S. passports held by the local people have become useless. He has been told to apply for a visa and cannot move to the United States except as an immigrant. Oh, my goodness, what are we going to do? What will happen to us?

Suddenly the alarm goes off and I wake up. It is April 1, All Fool's Day! Suddenly I realize I was dreaming! I got to serious thinking about that dream. Too often we forget the benefits we have been receiving over the years. We have come to accept all of these privileges as rights. But what if "the day after" were to come true? What then?

Yes, the CNMI I is facing a terrible time. Many of us resent the U.S. forcing federalization on us. We like to point our finger at the U.S. and blame them for our entire dilemma. But remember every time we point a finger at someone else, three or four of them point back at us.

See THE DAY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nagasaki, j'aime la vie

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Reuters carried last week the story of Nagasaki A-bomb survivor 66-year-old Kazuko Yamashita who now lives with her 39-year-old daughter and two grandchildren in Tokyo. She was five years old that fateful day in August 1945 when the nuclear kamikaze brightened the skies over her southern town in Kyushu where she managed to be less than four kilometers from air zero but got shielded by a quilt bedding.

In a remarkable attitude of Zen calmness, a rather objective c'est la vie attitude, she noted that people are making too much fuzz over the 20-mile radius imposed by the government on one of the Fukushima nuclear reactors gone rogue, banking on her own experience and survival, with nothing major to show for it other than her thyroid cancer.

Contrast this to residents of China's top five cities emptying iodide salt off the shelves of its markets on the mistaken notion that it will protect them from iodine poisoning, and as a counter response to the widespread rumor that food items from China Sea are contaminated. One man bought himself five-years worth of supply to placate the wife.

The U.S.' blanket recommendation that its citizens leave Japan appears motivated by fear rather than sound judgment, though I must concede that given our propensity to consume more resource than others, leaving the scene could very well increase resources available to the local populace now that there is scarcity of food and other items.

One of *China Daily*'s commentator wondered why there does not seem to be any public display of Japanese emotion in response to the on-going debacle. That's not exactly a judgment I would arrive at from news service photos but the writer is right if she is referring to an absence of whining and finger-pointing on who is to blame that usually accompanies disasters of this nature.

Our "Zen calmness" article last Tuesday went viral before it got uploaded on *Saipan Tribune*'s online edition, having so far made it to a blog and three list serves, plus one *Journal*'s request for permission to print. A reader from Minnesota responded that the best she could come up with while viewing the breaking news was repeating: "Oh, my God! Oh, my God!" Commentaries from all over the world had since echoed the same sentiment of the seeming disciplined calmness of the Nipponggos.

Indeed, the news service reported that in one of those three-hour gatherings at a communal node where people waited out the after effects of the quake, the disparate ad unorganized public left the place clean. They would have been excused had they left a mess behind, given all the surrounding debris and clutter from the shaken buildings, but no, they intentionally cleaned-up before they left the place. The reported absence of looting in the affected neighborhoods is itself a testimony that there is hope in the human race, at least, in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Cyberspace did reveal the dark shadows that lurk amongst us. There's a suggestion that the tremors emanated from a Japanese military nuclear test of under the ocean conducted under cover because Nippon since Hiroshima and Nagasaki have forsaken as a matter of policy any military use of nuclear power. I have a feeling someone is already writing a novel with this as a core ingredient of the plot.

A more personal and cruel hoax was perpetuated on the net when a Down Under teacher in Japan was reported in a blog as one of the identified casualties, to the great dismay of her family, until someone noticed her live picture taken in one of the shelters. That anyone actually bothered to perpetuate such a hoax gives credence to what Augustine called 'original sin.'

Radioactive material takes 10-24,000 years to deactivate. As a human civilization, we are only 6,000 years old. Nuclear fission was a great achievement of the human mind and the finding was handed to the military (bomb), the engineers (reactors), and the business executives (nuclear plants). With due respect to Dr. Arkle, Jr., erstwhile of Tinian, and his colleagues who advocate nuclear power for the CNMI, the human face at CUC does not invite much assurance of a discipline for safety, not to mention efficiency and efficacy.

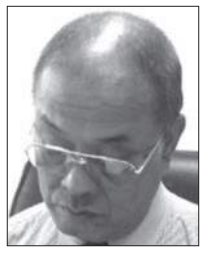
In the aftermath of the recent China's Peoples Congress, the authorities has since gone after sellers of contaminated pork, factories using formaldehyde to curdle animal blood (for *dinuguan* to Pinoys, though not the Brit's blood pudding), and a five-year Ponzi scheme on real estate operated out of picturesque Guangxi province. There is no shortage of human malediction.

But, of course, as documented by our own Courtney Zietzke of MHS in his *The Winged Messenger*, the U.S. government got the pharmaceutical off the hook with their use of poisonous mercury in vaccines until 2005 by limiting the pharmas liability to three years. Pharmas continue to be high earners in our stock market phantom wealth inventory.

Our Nagasaki lady does have a point. (Our title reveals our age. It alludes to the 1959 ground breaking Japan-France movie *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, a love story enveloped in human despair.) What's the big fuss?

China just declared that it is not the GDP but the peoples' well-being index that is the central consideration in its next five-year plan. Japan thought it was doing that, but on nuclear energy, it will have to do better. So will the rest of the world since nuclear energy is not about to go away soon.

Ekun linau yan eskases



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Guaha señat man-huhuyuñg antes de u fatoigue hit dañkulu na ira. Pot ihemplo, gi uttimon nobienta siha na sakan, pesa matai ababañg entalu Chalan San Vicente hulu esta i Deni.

Tatnai hu lie' ayu na sinesede ni muna' fuguyu' sa' haf" na basula matai ababañg gi hilu' yan kanton chalan. Guihe na sakan mas ke siñkuenta na natibu man-matai, primet biahe 'nai hulie' tautauta huyuñg yan halom gi gima Yuus.

■ ■ ■

Tinilada pot tinilada na guihan man-matai ya man-inasa halom gi kanton unai gi sanhilu na patte giya California. Parehu masusede lokue gi mismu tiempu gi inai sanhilu giya Japon. Dos, tres dias dispues pañgpañg ayu na linau i masusede gi mapos na semana.

Gi Mietkoles, Matso 16, tres dias antes de iran linau Japon, hu lie' button Santa Maria gi chagchag chatagmag pot dos biahe. Hu tuñgu' na i linie'hu ti guinife. Kulan masitayu' na guaha dañkulu ira mamamaila ya i tautau man-manayuyot nu i santos lisayu.

Tres dias dispues pañgpañg i linau yan hinalom tasi giya Japon. Gi otru punta, pañgpañg lokue' otru linau gi tadoñg na tasin iya Toñga.

Huñgan, ti bai' matman yangin guaha para u butleha finohu pot button Santa Maria. Na humidde hau ya un' tutuhon mismu tinayuyotmu para proteksion todus. Mas gai probichosu hau yangin un' na'omag tatautaumu nu i sensian hinimidde.

Guaha mas ira para u fatoigue hit taminau mantuge' gi Santa Biblia. I man-madeskribe guihe siha na tinige' sumen na'mañau. Pot esso na presisu na ta polu un'ratu diariamente gi haanita pot para ta luñu hit gi linala' espirituat pot satbasion.

■ ■ ■

Gi kase ennau i tutuhon sisienta siha na sakan, i defuntu as Tun Tomas Rios halie' gi guinifiña si Santa Maria. Tinagu' i defuntu na u liliku ya u soyu' i tautau siha na u fan lisayu pot tinilaika siha gi modun linala'ta.

Ha sañgan i amku pot sastre yan magagun famalaoan tat kumu man-senkadada' na fina' sikato'. Ti apmam yan ayu, man-mabende este siha na klasen magagu. Kanaha' tai bali na tampen famalaoan sa' gaige ha' gi papa' dagan i puntan sikato. De dios! ***

I guaka gi halom kolat sige man-impirau yangin guaha mamamaila' iran linau. Sige mañgake, man-liliku kulan mohon belan halom kolat. Atan dispues hafa para umasusede. U fattu linau 'sino pagpag butkan, ira na esta pagu mapot mapredikta pot para u guaha suffisiente notisia para i publiku.

■ ■ ■

Gigon mahuñgog i busina, umapipet i dos amku (residenten Sendai giya Japon) ya matatiye i grupon tautau man-e'ensinahyau hulu gi fina' hogsu. Pot amku i dos umasagua, dispasiu mamokat ya uttimoña ti siña magacha' mona i tropa. Malie' 'nai sige guatu i napu giya siha. Ti mattu hulu gi hegsu, ayu uttimu malie' niha i binalutan ni napu.

■ ■ ■

Guaha lokue finaposta piot guihe na ora 'nai umagoninias un' guinaiyata para u hanau. Ta huñgog ennau na prohimu 'sino prohima ha sañgan na ha lie' si fulana yan fulanu guaha machochogue. Guiya este i mafanana'an kumarerera.

I hinagoñgña kulan sen yayas sa' buente anaghu kareraña. Lau dispues pas siñienteña, bonitu mataña, chumaleg un' ratu, dispues umachigu sa' humanau. Estague' unu gi señat para kumarera sa' mattu ma-agañgña ginen hilu. Afañielos, na fan satton hamyu gi tinatuyot Santo Lisayu para satbasion todus.

Letter to the Editor

Crying shame

It's a crying shame to see the demise and fall of a once beautiful island, its cheerful society, and vibrant tropical lifestyle that attracted people from all over Asia and the west.

There's one and only one to blame for this—the complete lack of leadership of the bozos who sit on their rumps on Capital Hill and are driving your island into irreversible despair and economic ruin. MVA is a total joke. This entity has been so inept and failed over the years to promote the "one and only unique value proposition" that the island has—tourism!

If any major corporation had its marketing division perform so poorly as to functionally bankrupt the company, for sure a major over haul, firing, and massive re-branding campaign would be carried out.

Did your leaders do anything to make this grouping more effective? No. You're still arguing the same points of the value of tourism that were being argued back in the 1990s when I lived there. This MVA team a few years was in Shanghai when I was there at a tourism convention and the CNMI booth was empty after the second day. All the local boys took off and never showed up to do their jobs promoting the island.

They were busy fattening up on pork noodles and taking a good ol' fashion government taxpayer-subsidized vacation. That's just the tip of the leadership iceberg that is sinking your island.

Chris West
Santa Monica, Ca

THE DAY

From Page 10

True, we will have to make many adjustments to fit into the role the U.S. wants from us. But ranting at and cursing the United States will not solve anything. We sound like spoiled children.

Consider several factors. Did federalization suddenly appear or were there attitudes and actions on our part that precipitated this action over the years? Have we always shown maturity on the use of funds, human relationships with foreign workers, and the conduct of our internal affairs? Have we been forewarned? Is this action by the United States any different when any state in the union doesn't follow national policy?

Isn't the only solution to avoid "the day after" scenario to work closer and discuss more with the United States? Have we really explored why these decision are being made? However I am not advocating tacit acceptance of all that the U.S. wants us to do. But we are a member of that family and as a member we must cooperate.

Don't you think we should try to better understand and cooperate with our parent? We are not an independent country. We gave that up in 1986. We are U.S. citizens first and secondly citizens of the CNMI. When are we and our leaders going to understand that?

We must request frank and open discussions between ourselves and the Homeland Security Department. We must understand what is it that we are supposed to be doing as a good member of the family. By understanding the real reasons behind the U.S.'s insistence for federalization, or should we call it "consolidation of all its possessions," we can and will work out a good harmonious working relationship. Do we work together or do we let "the day after" become a reality? Let's decide.

As someone once told me; "We cannot control what cards are dealt us, but we can control how we play them!" Think about it!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

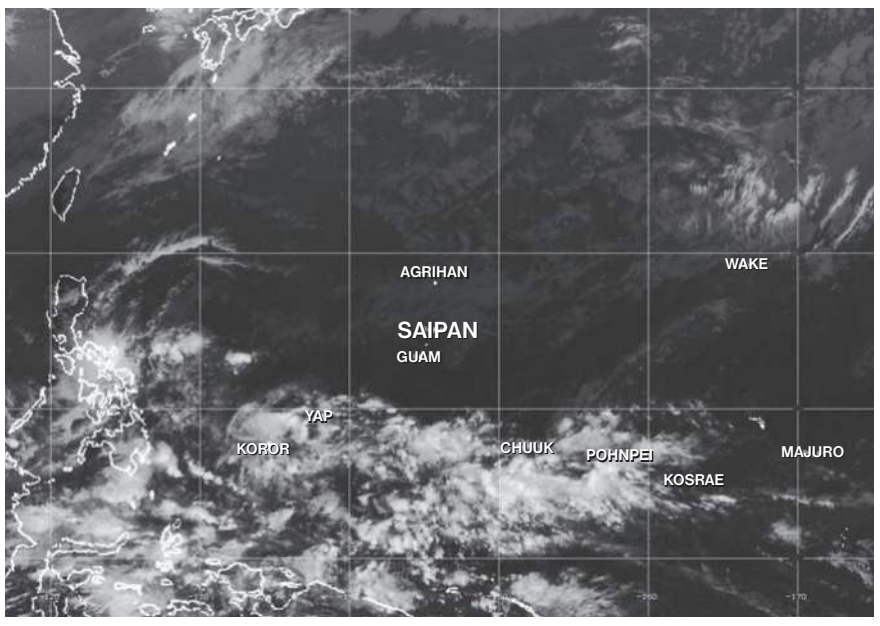
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲87	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲53	▼31
Hong Kong	Showers	▲63	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼39
Los Angeles	Showers	▲61	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
New York	Showers	▲51	▼44
Osaka	Showers	▲51	▼37
Paris	Sunny	▲55	▼35
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼33
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼41
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼45
San Francisco	Showers	▲54	▼49
Seoul	Showers	▲55	▼51
Tokyo	Showers	▲52	▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲57	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area near 27N180 and extends southwestward to 20N170E then continues as a shear line to 18N160E to 15N150E through the Marianas to beyond 13N130E. Patchy low clouds and showers extend up to 400 miles north of the front and shear line. A near-equatorial trough stretches from 3N130E to EQ139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found across the Republic of Palau and Yap state between the equator and 10N from 132E to 145E. Converging trade-winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 1N and 9N from 145E to 160E and north of Kosrae between 7N and 9N from 160E to 164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:01 PM	7:04 AM
Tuesday	9:04 PM	7:54 AM
Wednesday	10:07 PM	8:47 AM
Thursday	11:08 PM	9:42 AM
Friday		10:39 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Delta pledges $1M in cash, in-kind support for Japan disaster relief

Delta Air Lines is pledging $1 million in cash and in-kind support to disaster relief efforts in Japan following last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami. The airline's efforts are centered on two relief programs: American Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross Society.

Delta Air Lines Foundation, Delta's company-managed giving system, is providing an immediate $250,000 cash donation to the Japanese Red Cross Society to support rescue and recovery efforts.

This donation will be supplemented by cash contributions from Delta customers and employees who are encouraged to donate via a dedicated Delta-Red Cross website. Donations made at this site will be routed directly to the Japanese Red Cross Society's efforts to assist persons in affected areas.

These donations are in addition to Delta's long-standing agreement with the American Red Cross to provide complimentary cargo and passenger capacity, if needed, to help move relief supplies and workers to and from disaster areas around the world.

SkyWish Asia-Delta has committed to match up to five million miles against customers' donations to World Vision Japan through its SkyWish Asia program. Delta customers are encouraged to visit the SkyWish Asia website where they can donate miles to World Vision Japan to help transport relief workers and supplies to Japan. World Vision has worked in Japan for more than two decades. In the wake of a disaster, World Vision is often one of the first organizations to begin relief work by distributing pre-positioned supplies.

In addition to the immediate $250,000 cash donation to the Japanese Red Cross Society and the up to five-million mile donation to World Vision Japan, Delta will supplement any employee and customer contributions with additional cash, if needed, to fulfill its $1 million pledge.

Delta's Japan-based employees also are receiving any needed assistance through a nonprofit organization led and funded by Delta people known as the Delta Employee & Retiree Care Fund. Delta employees donate directly to this fund via payroll deduction or via their internal employee website. Donations will be used to assist any Delta employee in Japan seeking assistance in the wake of last week's events.

"Japan is a core part of our global network and we are committed to finding ways to help those in need following last week's devastating earthquake," said Vinay Dube, senior vice president of Asia-Pacific. "Delta's 1,200 employees in Japan, backed by the support of 80,000 worldwide, are rallying together to do what we can to make a difference and we encourage our customers to join us by donating money or miles to our dedicated charities."

Due to stringent international security and customs requirements, Delta can only accept relief cargo shipments through pre-approved relief organizations including the American Red Cross. At this time, the Red Cross has requested monetary donations. Customers wishing to contribute in other ways should clear these requests through the Red Cross. ***(Delta Air Lines)***

Officials: Pressure rises again in Japan reactor

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Technicians prepared to vent radioactive gas into the air Sunday because of a new spike in pressure at Japan's crippled, leaking nuclear complex, while a safety official said protective iodine pills should have been distributed near the plant days earlier.

Radiation, a danger for days in areas around the plant, already has seeped into the food supply, with the government warning that tests of spinach and milk from areas as far as 75 miles (120 kilometers) away exceeded safety limts. Tap water farther away turned up tiny amounts of radioactive iodine in Tokyo and other areas.

Amid concerns of wider contamination, a nuclear safety official said the government was caught off-guard by the accident's severity and only belatedly realized the need to give potassium iodide to those living within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex.

The pills help reduce the chances of thyroid cancer, one of the diseases that may develop from radiation exposure. The official, Kazuma Yokota, said an explosion at the plant's Unit 3 reactor last Sunday should have triggered the distribution. But the order only came three days later.

"We should have made this decision and announced it sooner," Yokota told reporters at the emergency command center in the city of Fukushima. "It is true that we had not foreseen a disaster of these proportions. We had not practiced or trained for something this bad. We must admit that we were not fully prepared."

While four of Fukushima's six nuclear reactors have been dangerously overheating since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disrupted cooling systems, Unit 3 has proved particularly troublesome.

After the government said Saturday that the unit appeared to be stabilizing after being doused with water, nuclear safety officials said the efforts may not have worked. Pressure was rising again inside the reactor's containment vessel, requiring a release of radioactive gas to prevent a more dangerous buildup, said safety agency official Hidehiko Nishiyama.

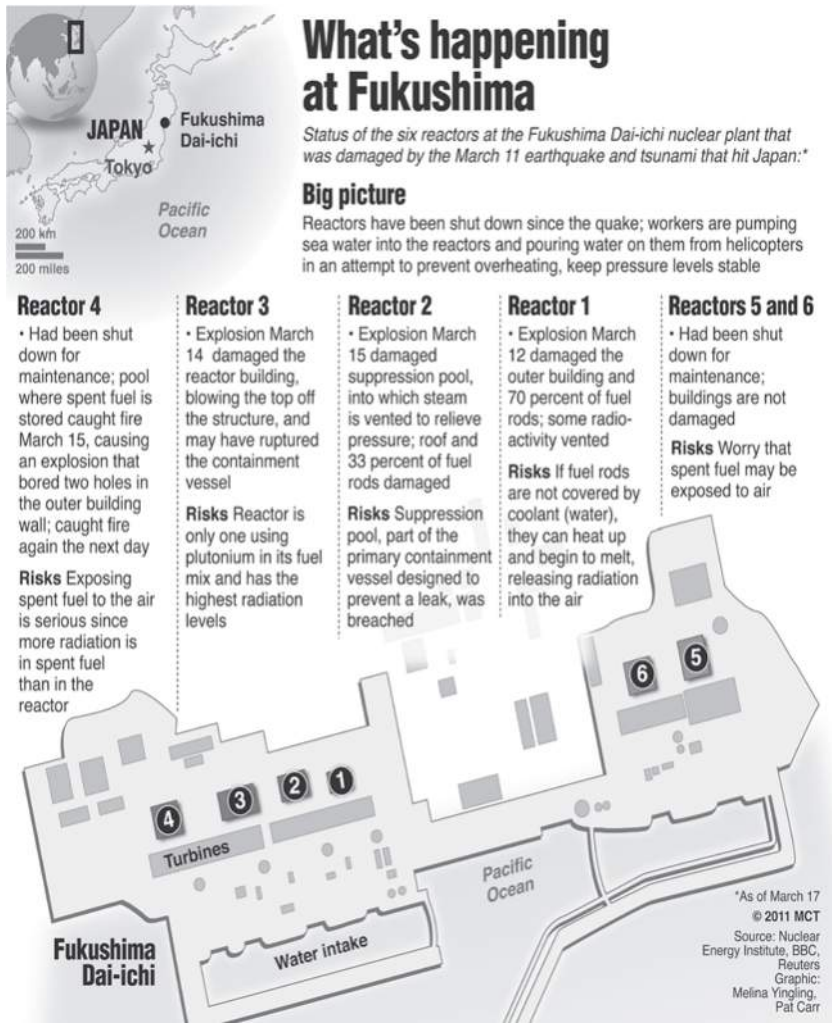
The venting is an "unavoidable measure to protect the containment vessel," Nishiyama said. He warned that a larger amount of radiation would have to be released than when similar venting was done a week ago because more nuclear fuel have have degraded since then.

While battling Unit 3, emergency teams used an unmanned vehicle to spray water at another at-risk reactor—Unit 4—while preparing to switch power back on for the first time since a March 11 earthquake and tsunami knocked out the plant's crucial cooling systems.

However, there was no guarantee the cooling systems would still work, even once power was restored.

Japan has been struggling with an overwhelming chain of disasters prompted by the 9.0-magnitude quake. The quake spawned a tsunami that ravaged Japan's northeastern coast, killing more than 8,100 people and knocking out cooling systems at the plant, prompting overheated reactors and fuel to leak radiation.

More than 12,000 people are still missing, and more than 452,000 are living in shelters.


What's happening at Fukushima
Status of the six reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant that was damaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan:*
JAPAN
Tokyo
Fukushima Dai-ichi
Pacific Ocean
200 km
200 miles
Big picture
Reactors have been shut down since the quake; workers are pumping sea water into the reactors and pouring water on them from helicopters in an attempt to prevent overheating, keep pressure levels stable
Reactor 4
• Had been shut down for maintenance; pool where spent fuel is stored caught fire March 15, causing an explosion that bored two holes in the outer building wall; caught fire again the next day
Risks Exposing spent fuel to the air is serious since more radiation is in spent fuel than in the reactor
Reactor 3
• Explosion March 14 damaged the reactor building, blowing the top off the structure, and may have ruptured the containment vessel
Risks Reactor is only one using plutonium in its fuel mix and has the highest radiation levels
Reactor 2
• Explosion March 15 damaged suppression pool, into which steam is vented to relieve pressure; roof and 33 percent of fuel rods damaged
Risks Suppression pool, part of the primary containment vessel designed to prevent a leak, was breached
Reactor 1
• Explosion March 12 damaged the outer building and 70 percent of fuel rods; some radioactivity vented
Risks If fuel rods are not covered by coolant (water), they can heat up and begin to melt, releasing radiation into the air
Reactors 5 and 6
• Had been shut down for maintenance; buildings are not damaged
Risks Worry that spent fuel may be exposed to air
1
2
3
4
5
6
Turbines
Pacific Ocean
Water intake
Fukushima Dai-ichi
*As of March 17
© 2011 MCT
Source: Nuclear Energy Institute, BBC, Reuters
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Pat Carr

Labor in full roar again, but it's not the same

WASHINGTON (AP)—Labor is roaring again, like in the old days. But it's a wounded sound now.

In the bitter aftermath of a showdown with Wisconsin's governor, and as other states move to weaken public employee bargaining rights, unions and their allies dare to hope they can turn rage into revival. This could be a make-or-break moment for a movement that brought the nation the 40-hour week, overtime pay, upward mobility, a storied century of brawls, progressivism and corruption—and now a struggle to stay relevant in the modern age.

Not so many answer to the call anymore when labor demands, as it did in the bloody strife of Kentucky coal country generations ago, "Which side are you on?"

One way or another, the Wisconsin Waterloo and the forces it set loose will fill a chapter in organized labor's history. The dispute mobilized masses, attracted public support on the side of workers and set up a political donnybrook to play out in the months ahead as labor leaders seek voters' vengeance against the Republicans who eviscerated union rights.

But it was, at the core, a defeat for labor in the one place where it has stayed strong: the public sector.

Suddenly this redoubt looks like a fat target.

"I think Republicans smell blood in the water," said Leon Fink, a labor historian at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "Politics is a highly organized game of money ball and this could set back both the unions and Democratic Party power for years."

Since the heyday of organized labor's influence in the 1950s, when union membership reached its peak at about one of every three workers, unions have fought a losing battle against the steady erosion of membership and clout.

Last year union membership fell to 11.9 percent of all workers, and just 6.9 percent of the private sector. The number of major strikes in 2009 and 2010 was the lowest on record.

If you're a labor sympathizer wondering why unions got weak, pick your poison.

The decline of unions in the private sector mirrored the push to globalization, especially the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs to other countries and the shift of other factories from the longtime industrial heartland to states less hospitable to organized labor.

Companies took an increasingly aggressive stance against union organizers, emboldened by the Reagan administration's firing of 11,000 striking air traffic controllers in 1981. That act was taken as a wink to the corporate world that the long-established order was upended and that business, too, could play rough.

"Labor now gives off an almost animal sense of weakness," Chicago union lawyer Thomas Geoghegan wrote in his Reagan-era ode to the movement—something of an obituary for it.

In the mid-1970s, when miners pulled off one of their multiple massive strikes, they choked coal production, idled steel plants that were starved of fuel and caused rolling brownouts in New York City. Americans far removed from strikes sharply felt their effects.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: Japan to lend up to $122 billion for quake

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese news report says the government plans to lend up to $122 billion to help quake-damaged businesses get back on their feet. The Nihon Keizai newspaper said Saturday that the government would arrange low-interest loans or interest subsidies to companies for daily expenses or quake-related repairs. It said the total lending covered could be as high as 10 trillion yen ($122 billion). Japan's government has launched a series of initiatives to shore up the economy following the magnitude-9.0 quake and tsunami on March 11 that triggered an unfolding nuclear crisis.

Honda suspends May orders from US dealers

NEW YORK (AP)—Honda is suspending May orders for Japan-made vehicles from U.S. dealers following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The carmaker told Honda and Acura dealers an e-mail Thursday vehicles produced in May might be needed to fill existing orders that have been delayed due to the disruption. Typically, dealers order cars six weeks in advance. Honda Motor Co. said Friday it expects to resume production in Japan on Wednesday. But it said in the e-mail that it can't guarantee when production will return to full capacity.

GM cuts unnecessary spending after Japan disaster

NEW YORK (AP)—GM said Saturday it is cutting unnecessary spending companywide as it assesses the impact of production disruptions from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The move will help the automaker preserve cash as it deals with the financial implications from shortages of parts made in Japan, a company spokesman said. The cost-cutting effort, which includes travel, took effect last week and will be in place for an undetermined period. The news follows General Motors Corp.'s announcement Friday that two of three shifts will be canceled at a plant in Eisenach, Germany on Monday and Tuesday. Another plant in Zaragoza, Spain will remain closed Monday. The plants produce the Corsa compact car.

Nation

Anti-war protesters arrested near White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 100 anti-war protesters, including the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers, were arrested outside the White House on Saturday in demonstrations marking the eighth anniversary of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

The protesters, some shouting anti-war slogans and singing "We Shall Not Be Moved," were arrested after ignoring orders to move away from the gates of the White House. The demonstrators cheered loudly as Daniel Ellsberg, the former military analyst who in 1971 leaked the Pentagon's secret history of the Vietnam War that was later published in major newspapers, was arrested and led away by police.

In New York City, about 80 protesters gathered near the U.S. military recruiting center in Times Square, chanting "No to war" and carrying banners that read, "I am not paying for war" and "Butter not guns."

Similar protests marking the start of the Iraq war were also planned Saturday in Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

The demonstration in Washington on Saturday merged varied causes, including protesters demanding a U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those supporting Bradley Manning, the jailed Army private suspected of giving classified documents to the website WikiLeaks.

One chant that was repeated was: "Stop the War! Expose the Lies! Free Bradley Manning!"

AP

Pat Loveless, right, of Takoma Park, Md., protests the 8th anniversary of the Iraq invasion, with other anti-war protesters during a rally near the White House in Washington, on Saturday, March 19, 2011.

Manning is being held in solitary confinement for all but an hour every day at a Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia. He is given a suicide-proof smock to wear to bed and is stripped naked each night. On Sunday, a protest will be held in Quantico, outside the brig where Manning is being held.

Ellsberg has publicly defended Manning, calling him a "brother," and WikiLeaks.

Hundreds of protesters attended the rally and marched around the White House, but the crowd—which included many military veterans—thinned considerably as the U.S. Park Police warned that they'd be arrested if they didn't move. As officers moved in with handcuffs, one protester who clutched the gates outside the White House shouted, "Don't arrest them! Arrest Obama!" and "You're arresting veterans, not war criminals!"

Authorities said 113 protesters were arrested, processed and given violation notices for disobeying an official order. They could pay a small fine and be released, or be freed with a future court date.

"The majority were cooperative," said U.S. Park Police spokesman David Schlosser. "A couple had to be carried, but altogether a polite and orderly crowd."

One military veteran who showed up for the rally was Paul Markin, a 64-year-old retired U.S. Army colonel from Lynn, Mass., who said he's frustrated by what he sees as the U.S. government's escalation of the wars. He said he's been against wars since coming home from Vietnam.

"Ever since that time, I've gone to the other side. Instead of a warrior, an anti-warrior," Markin said.

Obama: US launches military action against Libya

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—President Barack Obama authorized limited military action against Libya Saturday, saying Moammar Gadhafi's continued assault on his own people left the U.S. and its international partners with no other choice. The Pentagon said 112 cruise missiles were launched from US and UK ships and subs, hitting 20 targets.

Obama said military action was not his first choice.

"This is not an outcome the U.S. or any of our partners sought," Obama said from Brazil, where he is starting a five-day visit to Latin America. "We cannot stand idly by when a tyrant tells his people there will be no mercy."

A senior military official said the U.S. launched air defenses Saturday with strikes along the Libyan coast that were launched by Navy vessels in the Mediterranean. The official said the assault would unfold in stages and target air defense installations around Tripoli, the capital, and a coastal area south of Benghazi, the rebel stronghold.

Obama declared once again that the United States would not send ground forces to Libya, though he said he is "deeply aware" of the risks of taking any military action.

Earlier in the day, Obama warned that the international community was prepared to act with urgency.

"Our consensus was strong, and our resolve is clear. The people of Libya must be protected, and in the absence of an immediate end to the violence against civilians our coalition is prepared to act, and to act with urgency," Obama said.

Top officials from the U.S., Europe and the Arab world meeting in Paris, where they announced Saturday immediate military action to protect civilians caught in combat between Gadhafi's forces and rebel fighters. American ships and aircraft were poised for action but weren't participating in the initial French air missions.

As the military action was announced, French fighter jets swooped over Benghazi, the opposition stronghold that was stormed by Libyan government forces earlier Saturday, in defiance of a proclaimed ceasefire.

France, Britain and the United States had warned Gadhafi Friday that they would resort to military means if he ignored the U.N. resolution demanding a cease-fire.

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher dies

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

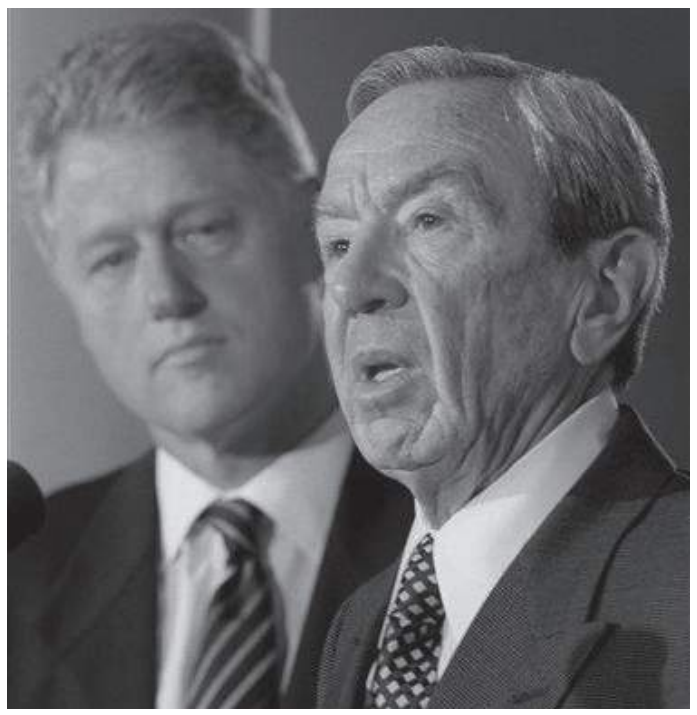
When he took over as secretary of state in the Clinton administration at age 68, Warren M. Christopher said he didn't expect to travel much. He went on to set a four-year mark for miles traveled by America's top diplomat.

The attorney turned envoy tirelessly traveled to Bosnia and the Middle East on peace missions during his 1993-1996 tenure—including some two dozen to Syria alone in a futile effort to promote a settlement with Israel.

After his work finished carrying out the Clinton administration agenda abroad, the longtime Californian returned home for an active life in local and national affairs and with his law firm.

Late Friday, the 85-year-old statesman died at his home in Los Angeles of complications from bladder and kidney cancer, said Sonja Steptoe of the law firm O'Melveny & Myers, where Christopher was a senior partner.

President Barack Obama said Saturday that he mourned the passing of a man who proved to be a "resolute pursuer of peace" and dedicated public servant.



AP

President Clinton looks on as outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher speaks at the White House in this Nov. 7, 1996 file photo.

"Warren Christopher was a skillful diplomat, a steadfast public servant, and a faithful American," the president said in a statement.

As Christopher prepared to step down in 1996 as secretary "for someone else to pick up the baton," he said in an interview he was pleased to have played a role in making the United States safer.

Along with his peace efforts, he told The Associated Press that his proudest accomplishments included playing a role in promoting a ban on nuclear weapons tests and extension of curbs on proliferation of weapons technology.

The loyal Democrat also headed Clinton's vice-presidential search committee, recommending Al Gore for the party's 1992 presidential ticket, and he also supervised the contested Florida recount for Gore in the 2000 presidential election. The Supreme Court, on a 5-4 vote, decided for George W. Bush.

Clinton said Saturday that he was saddened by Christopher's passing, calling him a public servant who "faithfully and effectively advanced America's interests and values."

"Chris had the lowest ratio of ego to accomplishment of any public servant I've ever worked with," Clinton said in a statement. "That made him easy to underestimate, but all Americans should be grateful that, along with great ability, he possessed the stamina and the steel to accomplish things that were truly extraordinary."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Testing finds no health threat along West Coast

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Minuscule amounts of radiation from Japan's stricken nuclear plant have reached the west coast but federal and state officials say it poses no health risk. They said Friday that the doses of radiation that a person normally receives from rocks, bricks, and the sun are 100,000 times the dose rates detected at a monitoring station in California and another in Washington state. Concerns that Japan's nuclear disaster was assuming international proportions grew as a radioactive plume released from the Fukushima Dai-ichi reached Southern California on Friday,

Judge blocks contentious Wisconsin union law

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The monthlong saga over Gov. Scott Walker's plan to drastically curb collective bargaining rights for public workers in Wisconsin took a turn Friday that could force a dramatic rebooting of the entire legislative process. A judge temporarily blocked the law from taking effect, raising the possibility that the Legislature may have to vote again to pass the bill that attracted protests as large as 85,000 people, motivated Senate Democrats to escape to Illinois for three weeks and made Wisconsin the focus of the national fight over union rights.

'Miracle on the Hudson' jet destined for NC museum

HARRISON, N.J. (AP)—To stand inside the cabin of the US Airways jet that crash landed on the Hudson River is to imagine, even briefly, some of the terror that must have overtaken the 155 people aboard as the plane descended onto the icy water. The plane's interior is largely undisturbed from the Jan. 15, 2009, landing but is littered with reminders—and a coating of dried mud. A stethoscope from a first-aid kit lies on the floor in one row, while unused life jackets still wrapped in plastic sit on seats. Many seat cushions are gone, grabbed by passengers as they exited onto a wing. In the rear galley, food and beverages are waiting to be served.

Asia

UN: too early to sound all-clear in Japan

VIENNA (AP)—As emergency crews struggled to stop further radiation leaks from Japan's crippled nuclear plant, senior U.N. officials on Saturday said some progress was being made but warned that it was too early to pronounce that the worst was over.

High levels of radioactivity appeared to be contained to the immediate area of the stricken complex on Japan's northeastern coast.

Reporters briefed by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency were shown charts showing readings well below health-threatening thresholds from cities a few hundred kilometers (miles) away from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. A diplomat with access to U.N. radiation tracking meanwhile described levels from Friday in Russia and California as minuscule.

■ ■ ■

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's police agency says more than 8,000 people are dead and more than 12,000 are listed as missing after last week's earthquake and tsunami.

AP

In this image taken from footage released by the Japan Defense Ministry, Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel talk before starting to spray water toward the Unit 3 of the troubled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, Okumamachi, northeastern Japan, on Friday, March 18, 2011.

A week after the disasters devastated the northeast coast, the National Police Agency said Sunday that the number of bodies collected so far stood at 8,133, while 12,272 people were listed as missing.

The toll has been steadily rising as searchers find bodies in the wasteland left behind by the 9.0-magnitude quake and the massive tsunami it unleashed. At the same time, the number of missing has risen as survivors and relatives come to terms with the twin disasters and contact police regarding loved ones who remain unaccounted for.

The two lists may overlap. Many of the bodies collected so far have not yet been identified, police say. So it is possible many of the unidentified bodies will match names on the missing list once their identities are confirmed.

■ ■ ■

Japanese officials said the crisis at the plant appeared to be stabilizing, with near-constant dousing of dangerously overheated reactors and uranium fuel, but the situation was still far from resolved — comments echoed by Graham Andrew, a senior aide to IAEA chief Yukiya Amano.

"The risk is reducing day by day," Andrew said. "Things are going in the right direction.

"But could we have something unexpected? Most certainly."

Amano was even more cautious, in comments to reporters at Vienna airport after a one-day trip to Tokyo to assess the situation.

"I have seen strengthened activities and felt a very strong commitment to fight against this incident and to recover safety ... and the fact is that activities are increasing," he said. But, "I don't think it is time to say that things are going in a good direction or not."

In Japan, officials said that contamination from the site had seeped into the food chain, with radiation levels in spinach and milk from farms near the tsunami-crippled facility exceeding government safety limits. But they insisted unrealistically huge quantities would have to be consumed before health risks loomed.

Minuscule amounts of radioactive iodine also were found in tap water Friday in Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan — although experts said none of those tests showed any health risks. The Health Ministry also said that radioactive iodine slightly above government safety limits was found in drinking water at one point Thursday in a sampling from Fukushima prefecture, the site of the nuclear plant, but later tests showed the level had fallen again.

Commenting on atmospheric readings hundreds of kilometers (miles) outside of the crisis zone in Japan and further afield, the Vienna-based diplomat said the measurements are 100 million to 1 billion times below health-threatening levels.

He said the measurements were taken at Takasaki, Japan, about 330 kilometers (200 miles) southwest of the accident site near the city of Fukushima; at Petropavlosk-Kamchatsky on Russia's Kamtchatka Peninsula; and at Sacramento, California.

The diplomat—who asked for anonymity because the CTBTO does not make its data public—was citing readings taken from the Vienna-based Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. He said the instruments at the monitoring stations were sensitive enough to measure single atoms.

Set up to monitor all nuclear testing, the CTBTO's worldwide network of stations can also detect earthquakes, tsunamis and fallout from accidents such as the disaster on Japan's northeastern coast that was set off by a massive earthquake and a devastating tsunami eight days ago.

Japanese search the rubble for dead before cleanup

ONAGAWA, Japan (AP)—A cold wind blowing at her back, Tayo Kitamura knelt beside her mother's body and pressed her palm against the blue plastic tarp rescue workers had just wrapped the corpse in. She leaned in as if to hug the body, then closed her eyes tightly as tears slid down her cheeks.

Firefighters had just pulled her 69-year-old mother Kuniko from the rubble of Onagawa, a once vibrant fishing town that was obliterated when last week's tsunami converted it into a landscape of death and destruction. Eight days after one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded unleashed the cataclysmic wave, desperate families are still searching for loved ones in the ruins of lost towns.

The painstaking task must be completed before heavy machinery can be called in en masse to begin the next phase: clearing away the oceans of debris that are all that's left of much of northeastern Japan's coast. So far, police have confirmed more then 7,300 deaths. Another 10,900 are missing and feared dead.

The search repeats itself up and down the coast. In Kesennuma, Sachiko Kikuta walks 12 miles (20 kilometers) a day, looking for signs of her sister. She does not think about the possibility that she might not be alive.

AP

Tayo Kitamura, 40, kneels in the street to caress and talk to the wrapped body of her mother Kuniko Kitamura, 69, after Japanese firemen discovered the dead woman inside the ruins of her home in Onagawa, northeastern Japan, Saturday, March 19, 2011, following the last week's earthquake and tsunami.

"We talk about how the search is going, but we don't talk about the worst that might have happened, that I might not find her," said the 27-year-old.

In the cold remains of Onagawa on Saturday, one boy ignored his own worst-case scenario, calling hopelessly across the wasteland for his mother. "Yuki! Yuki!"

The call seemed futile.

The March 11 tsunami was so powerful it sucked away entire towns. With almost no survivors amid the wreckage, rescue teams are searching almost exclusively for the dead. Residents say half of Onagawa's 10,000 people are gone.

The boy and his family pulled up wooden beams and iron bars from a tangled mass of debris that used to be his mother's home and cast them aside. She was not there.

Mizue Yamamura, 76, was also searching for her husband in Onagawa. She poked a thin stick against a soiled white cloth that looked like it could be a bloated corpse. It was not.

"I think a lot of bodies are in there," she said, looking up toward a mountainous heap of broken wooden planks that once formed rows of houses. The rescuers "have not even begun to search under here."

When the earthquake shook her third-floor apartment, Yamamura hurried outside with her husband, Yoshio, and began climbing a tree-lined hillside.

Yoshio was wearing only sandals, though, and turned back to get a pair of shoes.

She never saw him again.

"One moment changed everything," she said, still wearing the clothes she had on when they fled together. "Between life and death. A matter of seconds."

Yamamura is now totally isolated from her family, able to call neither her two daughters nor her two grandchildren, who all live elsewhere in the island nation. Their numbers were in her ruined apartment, her cell phone is gone, and there is no longer cellular reception in Onagawa anyway.

A giant blue-bottomed boat sits overturned beside their shattered apartment. Here, a mile (two kilometers) from the town's harbor, the ocean is not even visible. The hills on both sides channeled tsunami's energy, propelling it deep into the valley.

Elsewhere, firefighters unearthed another body. They placed it under a tarp, and a woman searching for a relative steeled herself to look.

It was no one she knew, but tears welled in her eyes anyway. Then she bowed and walked away.

Shortly after the disaster struck, Kitamura tried to call her mother from her own home in Sendai—a ruined city father south. The call never went through.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China expresses regret over allied strike on Libya

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday expressed "regret" over punishing airstrikes by the U.S. and European nations against Libya to enforce a U.N. no-fly zone. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said China "consistently disagrees with the use of force in international relations" and expressed "regret" over the Saturday attacks. In a statement posted on the ministry's website, Jiang said China "hopes the situation in Libya resumes stability as soon as possible" in order to avoid escalation of a military conflict.

Fire rages through refugee camp in India, 21 dead

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Officials say a fire raged through a refugee camp in northeastern India, killing 21 people and injuring about 100. Police Superintendent Darlong says winds whipped the fire into a massive blaze that swept across the Nifingpara camp in Tripura state for three hours Saturday before firefighters brought it under control. Tripura's governing CPM party says 21 people were killed and about 100 were hospitalized.

Landslides and floods in Philippines kill 10

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Landslides and floods in the central Philippines have killed three more people, bringing the death toll to 10. At least 14,000 residents also have evacuated to safer ground. Disaster officials said Friday an elderly man and a 13-year-old boy drowned in flooding in Bohol province, while another man was electrocuted in floodwaters in Leyte province. A mudslide earlier this week buried seven members of a family, including children ages 3 to 16.

World

Allies launch Libya force as Gadhafi hits rebels

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—The U.S. and European nations pounded Moammar Gadhafi's forces and air defenses with cruise missiles and airstrikes Saturday, launching the broadest international military effort since the Iraq war in support of an uprising that had seemed on the verge of defeat. Libyan state TV claimed 48 people had been killed in the attacks, but the report could not be independently verified. The longtime Libyan leader vowed to defend his country from what he called "crusader aggression" and warned the involvement of international forces will subject the Mediterranean and North African region to danger and put civilians at risk.

The U.S. military said 112 Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired from American and British ships and submarines at more than 20 coastal targets to clear the way for air patrols to ground Libya's air force. French fighter jets fired the first salvos, carrying out several strikes in the rebel-held east, while British fighter jets also bombarded the North African nation.

The strikes, which were aimed at enforcing a U.N.-mandated no-fly zone, were a sharp escalation in the international effort to stop Gadhafi after weeks of pleading by the rebels, who have seen early gains reversed as the regime unleashed the full force of its superior air power and weaponry.

President Barack Obama said military action was not his first choice and reiterated that he would not send American ground troops to Libya.

"This is not an outcome the U.S. or any of our partners sought," Obama said from Brazil, where he is starting a five-day visit to Latin America. "We cannot stand idly by when a tyrant tells his people there will be no mercy."

Thousands of regime supporters, meanwhile, packed into the sprawling Bab al-Aziziya military camp in Tripoli where Gadhafi lives to protect against attacks.

Defense officials cautioned it was too early to fully gauge the impact of the onslaught. But a senior U.S. defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the mission was ongoing, said the Americans believed Libya's air defenses had been heavily damaged by the cruise missiles.

Explosions continued to rock the coastal cities, including Tripoli, where anti-aircraft guns could be heard firing overnight.

AP

In this Saturday, March 19, 2011 photo provided by the U.S. Navy, the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) launches a Tomahawk missile in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn from the Mediterranean Sea .

Libyan TV quoted the armed forces command as saying 48 people were killed and 150 wounded in the allied assault. It said most of the casualties were children but gave no more details.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was "deeply concerned" about civilians' safety and called on all sides "to abide strictly by the rules and principles of international humanitarian law" by distinguishing between civilians and fighters and allowing safe access for humanitarian organizations.

Gadhafi, who has ruled Libya for 41 years, said in a telephone call to Libyan state TV that he was opening weapons depots to allow his people to arm themselves in defense.

He said the international action against his forces was unjustified, calling it "simply a colonial crusader aggression that may ignite another large-scale crusader war."

He also said the U.N. Security Council and the international community were responsible for "stopping this unjust flagrant aggression against a sovereign country immediately."

His regime also acted quickly in the run-up to the strikes, sending warplanes, tanks and troops into the eastern city of Benghazi, the rebel capital and first city to fall to the rebellion that began Feb. 15. Then the government attacks appeared to go silent.

Operation Odyssey Dawn, as the allied assault has been dubbed, followed an emergency summit in Paris during which the 22 leaders and top officials agreed to do everything necessary to make Gadhafi respect a U.N. Security Council resolution Thursday calling for the no-fly zone and demanding a ceasefire, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said.

"Our consensus was strong, and our resolve is clear. The people of Libya must be protected, and in the absence of an immediate end to the violence against civilians our coalition is prepared to act, and to act with urgency," Obama said earlier.

Navy Vice Adm. William E. Gortney, director of the Pentagon's Joint Staff, told reporters in Washington that U.S. ships and a British submarine had launched the first phase of a missile assault on Libyan air defenses to clear the way for the imposition of a U.N.-mandated no-fly zone over the North African country.

Gortney said the mission has two goals: prevent further attacks by Libyan forces on rebels and civilians, and degrade the Libyan military's ability to contest a no-fly zone.

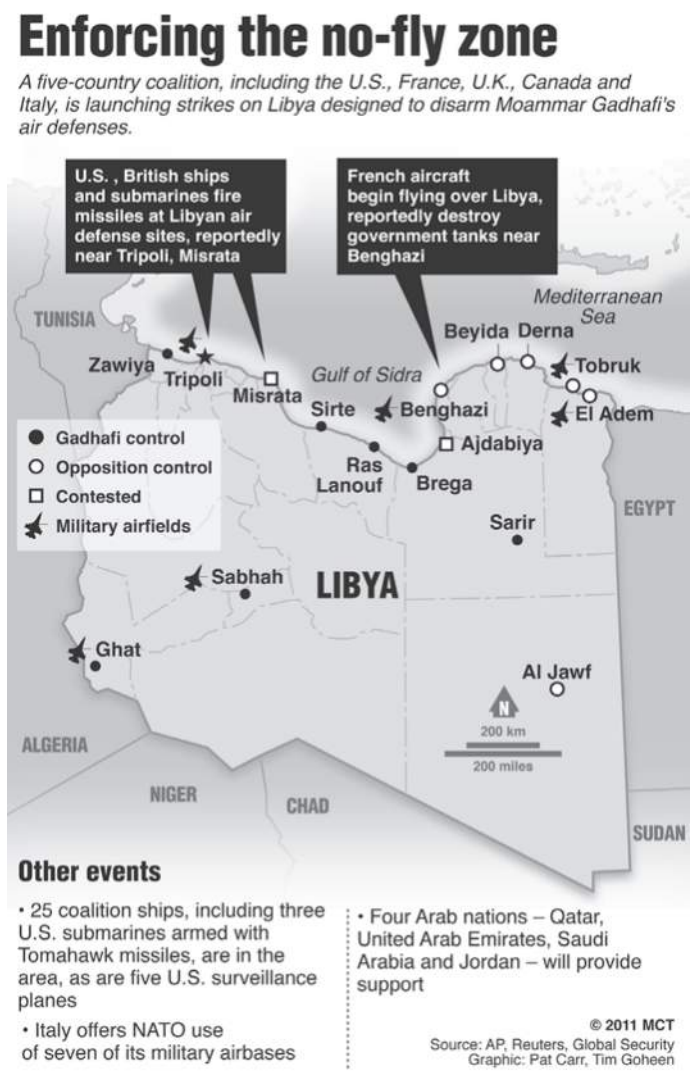
Mohammed Ali, a spokesman for the exiled opposition group the Libyan Salvation Front, said the Libyan air force headquarters at the Mateiga air base in eastern Tripoli and the Aviation Academy in Misrata had been targeted.

About 20 French fighter jets carried out "several strikes" earlier Saturday, military spokesman Thierry Burkhard told The Associated Press. He said earlier that one of the planes had fired the first shot against a Libyan military vehicle.

"All our planes have returned to base tonight," he said, and denied a Libyan TV report that a French plane had been hit.

He would not elaborate on what was hit or where, but said French forces are focusing on the Benghazi area and U.S. forces are focused in the west.

The U.S. has struck Libya before. Former President Reagan launched U.S. airstrikes on Libya in 1986 after a bombing at a Berlin disco—which the U.S. blamed on Libya—that killed three people, including two American soldiers. The airstrikes killed about 100 people in Libya, including Gadhafi's young adopted daughter at his Tripoli compound.



WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt votes freely for first time in half-century

CAIRO (AP)—Millions of Egyptians voted freely on Saturday for the first time in more than half a century, joyfully waiting for hours to cast their ballots on a package of constitutional changes eliminating much-hated restrictions on political rights and civil liberties. Young people traded mobile-phone pictures of ink-stained fingers that showed they voted. Others called relatives to boast of casting the first vote of their lives. In the well-off Cairo neighborhood of Maadi, a man hoisted his elderly, infirm father on his shoulder and carried him to a polling station. "My vote today will make a difference. It's as simple as that," said first-time voter Hossam Bishay, 48. The first test of Egypt's transition to democracy offered ominous hints of widening sectarian division, however.

Bahrain rights activist questioned by authorities

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—The wife of a leading human rights monitor in Bahrain says he has been questioned by security agents. The interrogation of Nabeel Rajab, head of the Bahrain Human Rights Center, is part of widening pressures on political activists and others under emergency rule declared by Bahrain's rulers. Nabeel's wife, Sumaya Rajab, says he was taken away by masked security officials early Sunday and released several hours later. She says the agents also confiscated computers, CDs and mobile phones. Bahraini authorities are trying to crush a revolt by the nation's majority Shiites for greater political freedoms. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have sent forces to help Bahrain's Sunni dynasty.

Focus

Japan tragedy seared into the world's imagination

TOKYO (AP)—There are events in history that sear themselves into the world's collective imagination, and enter the realm where myth meets heartbreaking reality.

Japan's tragedy is one of those events. Already, it seems reasonable to surmise it could prove one of the most significant calamities of our time—one that shapes policies, economies, even philosophies for decades to come in an increasingly interconnected world.

There is the sheer, surreal force of the images emerging from afflicted zones: cars perched on rooftops, ships sitting in rice paddies, helicopters in a David-and-Goliath battle against radiation-spewing nuclear reactors.

And the way it haunts us with some of our most basic fears: Death by water. Or rubble. Or nuclear fallout.

Add to that, it's a crisis with an impact that will be felt around the planet: Japan is one of the most advanced countries in the world, its third-largest economy, its most successful car-seller and its second-most generous giver of foreign aid.

"This event has the potential to be the most globally disruptive natural hazard in modern times," said Rob Verchick, a disaster expert at Loyola University in New Orleans. "And it may just be, in the context of globalization, of all time."

AP

A Japan flag made by people is seen during a ceremony for the victims and survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, in Belgrade's Republic square, Serbia, Saturday, March 19, 2011.

The Asian tsunami of 2004 killed more people. The fall of the Twin Towers launched two wars. The collapse of the Berlin Wall spelled the end of an empire.

But in this event, psychological, even philosophical, shock over the confluence of human tragedy and nuclear catastrophe yields some fundamental questions. If a technological power like Japan can be so vulnerable, who's safe? Is even minimal risk, as with nuclear power, too much risk? Do we need to rethink the role of government in protecting the public?

Shaking us from modern-day hubris, we're forced to think about whether even the most advanced societies, with almost obsessively meticulous safety backstops, are still pitifully at the mercy of the elements.

But amid tragedy, Francis Fukuyama, the eminent Stanford philosopher and author of "The End of History and the Last Man," sees the possibility for the crisis to become a galvanizing force for political change in the world.

"It does seem to me a natural disaster like this, because it reminds everybody of how commonly vulnerable they are, could be used as an opportunity to reshape the whole tone and character of politics," Fukuyama told The Associated Press.

The unbelievable sight of rich Japan—famous for trains running like clockwork, state-of-the-art gadgets, concern for safety and order—laid low by a freak force of nature beyond human control has been a terrifying wake-up call. On Friday, Japan's government acknowledged that the triple blow of quake, tsunami and nuclear disaster completely overwhelmed even its elaborately laid out, and fastidiously practiced, emergency response systems.

"The unprecedented scale of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, frankly speaking, were among many things that happened that had not been anticipated under our disaster management contingency plans," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

There's another great earthquake that changed the world: Lisbon, 1755. The tsunami-churning temblor flattened the Portuguese city, killed tens of thousands of people, and caused Enlightenment thinkers to reimagine the role of government and community.

Experts say this crisis could become another historical turning point that may alter mankind's perception of its relationship to the world, and societies' relationship with one another in an age of globalization.

"What the Lisbon earthquake experience contributed to Western history (was) this move of government being responsible to its people and protecting them in a community-driven way," said Verchick. "Is there anything like that that might happen as a result of the Japan tsunami and earthquake and nuclear disaster? I think that the answer is yes. It's related to the idea of global community."

Already the crisis is triggering an urgent rethink of nuclear power around the world, from China to Germany, where pressure is building to sharply accelerate a plan to phase out nuclear energy.

"Fukushima, March 12: 15:36: The End of the Nuclear Age," read the cover of the Germany's prestigious Der Spiegel magazine—referring to the exact time an explosion rocked the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant where workers are racing to prevent a meltdown.

While the Asian tsunami and last year's earthquake in Haiti triggered an enormous outpouring of worldwide sympathy and aid, the Japan catastrophe is one where people in industrialized countries can more easily see themselves in the victims' shoes.

"One of the things that make this a unique situation is that it is a catastrophic event with incredible terrifying loss that's occurring in a country that is also wealthy," said Verchick, author of the book Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World.

Verchick said that in New Orleans, many people who lived through Hurricane Katrina are watching the scenes in Japan with a sense of gut-wrenching familiarity, with some even experiencing symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

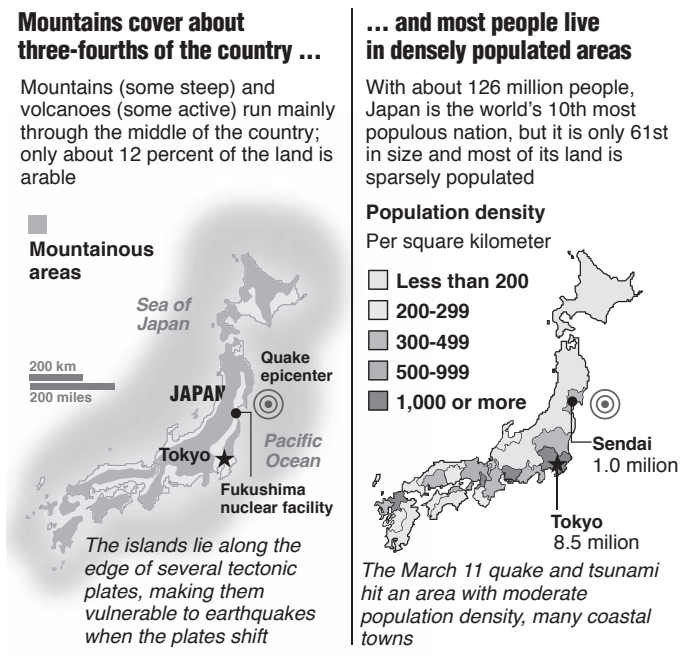
The Japan tsunami will go down in history as the more significant disaster, according to James Orr, professor of East Asian studies at Bucknell University. Not because of any difference in suffering, but because its effects will be felt around the planet in a more direct way. "Katrina was very much a regional disaster," he said.

And that global punch is given more force from the historic speed with which the images of devastation reached every corner of the planet.

"People all over the world have the ability to almost immediately see the disaster on the ground," said Verchick. "And that actually produces psychological and social changes in people and communities all over the world."

Geography is destiny

Japan – an archipelago consisting of four large islands and thousands of smaller ones – is a mountainous country with narrow coastal plains, where most of its people live and work.


Mountains cover about three-fourths of the country …
Mountains (some steep) and volcanoes (some active) run mainly through the middle of the country; only about 12 percent of the land is arable
Mountainous areas
Sea of Japan
200 km
200 miles
JAPAN
Quake epicenter
Pacific Ocean
Tokyo
Fukushima nuclear facility
The islands lie along the edge of several tectonic plates, making them vulnerable to earthquakes when the plates shift
… and most people live in densely populated areas
With about 126 million people, Japan is the world's 10th most populous nation, but it is only 61st in size and most of its land is sparsely populated
Population density
Per square kilometer
Less than 200
200-299
300-499
500-999
1,000 or more
Sendai 1.0 milion
Tokyo 8.5 milion
The March 11 quake and tsunami hit an area with moderate population density, many coastal towns
Prevailing winds blow mainly from west to east
Traveling from the Asian land mass across the Sea of Japan, winds bring rain and snow to the islands before moving into the Pacific
Arrows show prevailing wind direction
JAPAN
RUSSIA
CAN.
U.S.
Pacific Ocean
MEX.
Hawaii
Most radiation from damaged nuclear reactors in the quake zone should move out to sea

Source: Statistical Handbook of Japan, U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, CIA World Factbook
Graphic: Pat Carr, Lee Hulteng

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AP

This March 15, 2011 picture provided by the Geographical Survey Institute shows plumes of smoke and damage in the area near the Wakabayashi ward, Sendai Prefecture of Japan after the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Health & Fitness

Scientists lack complete answers on radiation risk

Thyroid cancer for sure. Leukemia, probably. Too much radiation can raise the risk of developing cancer years down the road, scientists agree, and the young are most vulnerable. But just how much or how long an exposure is risky is not clear.

Those are among the unknowns scientists are contemplating as the crisis unfolds at Japan's stricken nuclear power plant.

In Japan, the Science Ministry said radiation levels about 19 miles northwest of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant rose at one point Friday to 0.15 millisieverts per hour, about the amount absorbed in a chest X-ray. But levels have been fluctuating, and radiation at most sites that distance from the facility have been far below that.

Long term, it is clear radiation can induce cancer. But researchers can't just count cancer cases after a disaster and declare radiation responsible. Rates before and after must be compared to know if more cases occurred than would be expected.

That is why, 25 years after the Chernobyl accident, there is still controversy over its effects beyond the undisputed 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer. Of these cases, only 15 had proved fatal as of 2005, even though the Soviets were slow to treat victims of the catastrophe.

The records necessary to spot trends in other types of cancer as a result of Chernobyl are poor, said Dr. Fred Mettler, a University of New Mexico scientist who led a United Nations-sponsored team investigating Chernobyl's health effects.

"At the end of the day, the scientific data isn't there. My instinct is, there probably is an increase there, but it's too small to see," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says that no amount of radiation is absolutely safe above the 3 to 6 millisieverts a year that most of us get from normal living. In contrast, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says that low doses—less than 100 millisieverts spread out over years—are not harmful. Researchers have not documented danger from such low levels, said Kelly Classic, a radiation physicist at the Mayo Clinic and a spokeswoman for the Health Physics Society, an organization of radiation safety specialists.

High doses—over 500 millisieverts—can raise the risk of leukemia, breast, bladder, colon, liver, lung, esophageal, ovarian and stomach cancers, and the blood cancer multiple myeloma, government scientists say.

In between the high and lower levels, the picture is murky. Much depends on the type of radiation people are exposed to, how old they are, and how well each person's body repairs any DNA damage the radiation may cause.

"There's no linear relationship to say if you got this amount, it would cause a certain percent of cancer down the road," said Dr. Clifford Chao, chief of cancer radiation at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Children are the ones at risk for radiation's most obviously related cancer—thyroid. Radioactive iodine collects in the thyroid gland in the neck. Potassium iodide pills can block its absorption and minimize harm, but they must be given within 12 hours of exposure to do much good.

ON THE NET
- Chernobyl: http://chernobyl.cancer.gov
- http://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/chernobyl.html
- Thyroid cancer: http://tinyurl.com/5t5vpfu

When Chernobyl exploded, health workers "had millions of square kilometers to cover and it was all rural areas and they didn't really have anything stockpiled," Mettler said. Children also drank milk from cows that grazed on contaminated grass for weeks after the disaster, compounding their exposure and risk. More than 6,000 thyroid cancers have been documented in people who were children in the Ukraine, Belarus and Russia when the disaster occurred. But In Poland, where the antidote pills were given out, there were no higher rates of thyroid cancer.

Properly treated, thyroid "is one of the least deadly cancers," the American Cancer Society says. And low levels of radioactive iodine exposure have not been shown to increase thyroid cancer risk in studies of fallout from nuclear weapons testing in the western United States during the 1950s, the society says.

Studies of atomic bomb survivors have found higher rates of cancer. But those disasters involved different radioactive elements than the type emitted from the Japanese nuclear plant so far.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer also commissioned a study of more than 400,000 nuclear industry workers in 15 countries to estimate cancer risk following protracted low doses of radiation. The 2007 study found a dose-related higher risk of cancer death, but questions have been raised about its methods.

The results also were driven largely by higher rates in Canada; once that country's results were excluded, no increase is seen, Mettler said. There have been questions about the data from Canada, Mettler said. Also, the authors of the study say they need to do more work to assess how smoking and other factors affected their estimates.

So for now, the clearest information on cancer risk from a nuclear plant accident may come from Chernobyl. That disaster exposed 5 million people in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to large amounts of radioactive material for 10 days, according to the 2008 report that Mettler helped write for the United Nations' Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which represents 22 nations on nuclear safety.

Exposure to cesium was a big concern because it affects the whole body, not just the thyroid gland. And exposure among cleanup workers and emergency responders ranged as high as a few hundred millisieverts over the following few years. Evidence suggests a higher rate of leukemia in these workers, "but it's not certain," Mettler said.

Research is continuing in that group, and longer follow-up should establish that more clearly, he said.

"Leukemia increases have not been seen in the children" who are now adults, he said. Nor have increases in breast, lung, stomach or other cancers been documented, though this population became very mobile after Chernobyl and the break-up of the Soviet Union, so the true rates are hard to establish, and rates before the accident in some cases are unknown, Mettler said.

As bad as Chernobyl was, the average radiation dose over 20 years to people who live in contaminated areas was "relatively low"—9 millisieverts, nearly the equivalent of a CT scan - once the short-term doses to the thyroid were subtracted, the UN report said. That means there should not be "substantial health effects in the general population that could be attributed to radiation," the report concludes.

The NRC has said that typical annual background exposure to radiation shaves 18 days off the expected lifespan. Working in a nuclear plant under ordinary conditions—not in a crisis like the one unfolding in Japan—shortens life expectancy by 51 days. By comparison, being 15 percent overweight cuts two years; smoking a pack of cigarettes a day costs six years of life.

Effects of radiation exposure

Experts say even small radiation doses, as low as 100 millisieverts (mSv), can slightly raise cancer risk.

Exposure in mSv

10,000
Single dose, fatal within weeks

5,000
Single dose; would kill half of those exposed within a month

1,000
Single dose could cause radiation sickness; nausea, but not death

100
Recommended limit for radiation workers every five years

16.00
CT scan, heart

10.00
CT scan, full body

2.00
Radiation most people are exposed to per year

0.01
Dental x-ray

Immediate effects

Cell damage, especially fast-growing cells

Brain Fatigue, nausea

Hair follicles Hair loss

Intestine lining
Diarrhea, malnutrition

Skin cells
Sores, peeling

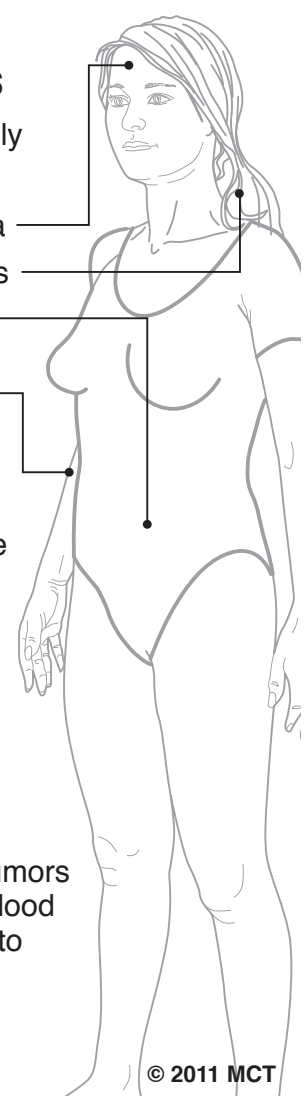
White blood cells and bone marrow
Immune system failure

Later

DNA damage
in cell nucleus

Egg and sperm cells
with damaged DNA can produce babies with birth defects

Body cells develop tumors or abnormal growth; blood cell damage can lead to leukemia



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Reuters
Graphic: Melina Yingling

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US life expectancy surpasses 78, a new record

ATLANTA (AP)—U.S. life expectancy has hit another all-time high, rising above 78 years. The estimate of 78 years and 2 months is for a baby born in 2009, and comes from a preliminary report released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

About 2.4 million people died in the United States in 2009 - roughly 36,000 fewer deaths than the year before.

Deaths were down for a range of causes, from heart disease to homicide, so experts don't believe there's one simple explanation for the increase in life expectancy. Better medical treatment, vaccination campaigns and public health measures against smoking are believed to be having an impact.

U.S. life expectancy has been generally increasing since at least the 1940s, though some years it held steady and a few times it temporarily dipped.

Previously, the CDC said a one-month dip occurred in 2008 to 77 years and 11 months. But in Wednesday's report, the agency corrected that to 78 years, attributing the glitch to a computer programming error.

Belatedly, "we realized there's something wrong here" in the 2008 estimate, said Ken Kochanek, a CDC statistician.

The 2009 report by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics is based on nearly all the death certificates for that year. A final report is due later this year.

More good news from the new report: The infant mortality rate hit a record low of 6.42 deaths per 1,000 live births, a drop of nearly 3 percent from 2008.

But not everyone benefitted. While life expectancy for whites rose, it held steady for blacks. The infant mortality rate for black babies did not improve either.

As a result, the racial gap got a little wider. Whites already live about four years longer than blacks, and the margin grew by about two months.

The gap between the sexes also persisted. Overall male life expectancy is roughly 75 1/2 , for females it's about 80 1/2.

Other highlights from the 2009 report include:

- Death rates declined slightly for 10 of the 15 leading causes of death, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents, Alzheimer's disease, homicide and influenza and pneumonia.
- Suicide passed blood infections to become the 10th leading cause of death. Suicide rates did not change significantly, but the blood infection death rate dropped nearly 2 percent. That puts suicide back in the top 10 causes of deaths for the first time since 1999, Kochanek said.
- The influenza/pneumonia death rate dropped nearly 5 percent, even though 2009 was the year that the swine flu pandemic hit.

Flu deaths rose by about 1,000 in 2009 from the year before, but pneumonia deaths dropped by nearly 4,000. Pneumonia is a flu complication most often seen in the elderly, and is a main reason why the overwhelming majority of flu-related deaths most years occur in the elderly. But while swine flu hit young adults and kids unusually hard, it caused relatively mild illness for people 55 and older.

"The irony is there were less deaths because the elderly were spared in this pandemic," said Dr. Keith Klugman, a professor of global health at Atlanta's Emory University.

Life & Style

Country entertainer Ferlin Husky dies at age 85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Ferlin Husky, a pioneering country music entertainer in the 1950s and early '60s known for hits like "Wings of a Dove" and "Gone," died Thursday. He was 85.

The 2010 Country Music Hall of Fame inductee died at his home, hall spokeswoman Tina Wright said. He had a history of heart problems and related ailments.

With his resonant voice and good looks, Husky was one of the most versatile entertainers to emerge from country music. He was a singer, songwriter, guitarist, actor, and even a comedian whose impersonations ranged from Bing Crosby to Johnny Cash.

He was one of the first country musicians to bring the genre to television and helped spread its popularity in booming post-World War II California, an important step in country's quest for a national audience.

He said in a 2010 interview with The Associated Press that he was buoyed by his Hall of Fame induction because he worried he'd been forgotten as his health failed over the years.

"The main thing I'm proud of, this is for my family and for the many people who want to see me go in there before I die," he said. "It's a great honor."

Friends seemed more indignant about Husky's long wait than he did. Tracy Pitcox, president of Heart of Texas Records, remembers telling Husky he deserved to be in the hall of fame a few years before his induction.

"He said, 'It would be nice, but it isn't going to impress Jesus,'" Pitcox remembered Thursday. "I just thought, 'Wow, what a nice thing to say.'"

Husky was one of the first country artists to have his name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and sold more than 20 million records, mostly in the '50s and early '60s, according to his web site. He won many of his awards long before such gala shows were televised and meant so much to careers.

He was born in 1925 near Flat River, Mo. After five years in the Merchant Marine during World War II, he began his singing career in honky tonks and nightclubs around St. Louis and later in the Bakersfield, Calif., area. "I'd walk into a bar and if they didn't have any music there I'd ask the bartender if I could play. Then I'd pass the hat around," he told the Chicago Tribune in 1957.

He recalled netting 50 or 75 cents each time.

He recorded some songs early in his career under the name Terry Preston, and in some early records he spelled his last name Huskey.

He was signed to Capitol records in the early 1950s and had his first big success when he teamed with 2011 Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Jean Shepard on "Dear John Letter," which ranked No. 4 on Billboard's list of top country songs of 1953.

Shepard said Thursday that was the start of a friendship that lasted nearly 60 years. She talked with Husky about a week ago before his health took a turn for the worse.

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2010 file photo, Ferlin Husky attends the 44th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

"We've got to go through the motions now," Shepard said Thursday. "I just dread that 'cause it seems like my heart's going to bust."

She described Husky as a fun-loving friend who was always quick with a joke or a prank. He also was one of the most talented artists she worked with in a long career that brought her in touch with all the legends.

"Ferlin was a great entertainer. He was a great entertainer," Shepard said. "I can't say nothing bad about him. If every man and woman who worked together in the music business or whatever had the relationship that me and Ferlin had, it would be a wonderful thing. It was a loving, loving friendship."

He was also the headline act for a tour that included a young Elvis Presley.

"He was so eager to learn how to entertain an audience, he'd watch everything I did," Husky said of Presley.

In 1957, he had a No. 1 hit on the country chart with "Gone," a re-recording of a song he had done several years earlier. It also broke the top five on the pop charts.

"Wings of a Dove," a gospel song, became another No. 1 country hit in 1960 and was one of his signature songs. His other hits included "A Fallen Star," "My Reason for Living," "The Waltz You Saved for Me" and "Timber I'm Falling."

"I didn't say it was country, but it was a country boy doing it," he said in 2010.

While still recording under his real name, Husky created a character named Simon Crum as his comic alter-ego, hitting the charts with such songs as "Cuzz You're So Sweet" and "Country Music Is Here to Stay."

He also was a regular on TV and appeared in a string of movies with co-stars like Zsa Zsa Gabor ("Country Music Holiday" in 1958) and Jayne Mansfield ("Las Vegas Hillbillies" in 1966.) He once said that his selection for a short run as Arthur Godfrey's summer replacement at CBS in the late 1950s was a particular high point for him.

Sales of e-books jump in January past hardcovers

NEW YORK (AP)—The e-book boom has reached new heights, but not high enough to boost book sales overall.

Helped by millions of Kindles, Nooks and other digital devices given for holiday gifts, e-book sales jumped in January and surpassed purchases of hardcovers and mass market paperbacks, according to a new survey. The Association of American Publishers reported Thursday that e-sales more than doubled from $32.4 million in January 2010 to $69.9 million in January 2011.

Hardcovers sales fell from $55.4 million to $49.1 million, and mass market paperbacks, a format that's declining as baby boomers seek books with larger print, fell from $56.4 million to $39 million.

Total sales, which include the education and professional markets, were $805.7 million in January, slightly below the $821.5 million reported last year.

Not all AAP members participate, but the survey includes results from Random House, Inc., Simon & Schuster and other leading publishers.

The new numbers "pretty much reflect reality," Simon & Schuster CEO and president Carolyn Reidy said Thursday, although she cautioned that e-sales tend to be especially high in January as new customers test the format.

She said e-sales likely dropped after January but will settle at a level that's still substantially higher than last year. Reidy said e-books were around 8 to 9 percent of the general trade market at the end of 2010 and she expects them to reach 12 to 15 percent of the market this year.

"When people start out with e-books, they like the convenience and the ease," Reidy said. "They tend to experiment with different kinds of books."

Reidy said e-book sales were as high as 50 percent of the total for some works, not just for commercial fiction, but for so-called "midlist" books that depend on reviews and word of mouth. She cited Mira Bartok's well-regarded memoir "The Memory Palace," which came out this year.

"You have people reading the reviews and buying the books electronically," she said.

Berlin zoo: Beloved polar bear Knut has died

BERLIN (AP)—Berlin's beloved polar bear Knut, an international star who as a cuddly, fluffy cub graced magazine covers, movies and merchandise, died Saturday. His death at the young age of four took zookeepers and animal experts by surprise.

The celebrity bear died suddenly in his compound at the Berlin Zoo on Saturday afternoon, bear keeper Heiner Kloes told The Associated Press. He waded into the water in his enclosure before having a short spasm and then dying in front of hundreds of zoo visitors.

While the life expectancy of polar bear in the wild is between 15 and 20 years, animals in captivity can live even longer because they are not exposed to hunger, thirst or infections. A postmortem will be conducted on Monday to try to pinpoint the cause of death, Kloes said.

"He certainly did not die of old age," Thomas Pietsch from the Vier Pfoten group for the prevention of cruelty to animals told German news agency DAPD.

His death was met by an immediate outpouring of sorrow. As the news of Knut's death spread through the city, more Knut fans showed up at the zoo, assembling in front of the bear compound to mourn his loss.

Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit called Knut's death "awful," telling the B.Z. daily, "we all held him so dear."

"He was the star of the Berlin zoos," he said.

Rejected by his mother at birth on December 5, 2006, along with his twin brother, who only survived a couple of days, Knut first attracted attention when his main caregiver, Thomas Doerflein, camped out at the zoo to give the button-eyed cub his bottle every two hours. Doerflein cuddled and played with him at daily public appearances to the delight of thousands of people who came to watch.

Fan clubs sprung up across the globe, including in Japan, the United States and Germany. Fans followed his every move, including his weight battle—he had a weakness for croissants—or plans to move to a different zoo.

"Knutmania" led to a 2007 Vanity Fair cover with actor Leonardo DiCaprio shot by photographer Annie Leibovitz, a film and plush likenesses. Though the zoo has never released exact numbers, Knut merchandise including postcards, key chains, candy and stuffed Knuts have brought in hundreds of thousands of euros.

He was so adored, and profitable, Berlin's zoo paid some euro430,000 ($600,000) to the Neumuenster zoo to settle a financial dispute over his ownership. Neumuenster owns Knut's father and had insisted it was the legal owner of Knut, the elder bear's first offspring.

AP

In this March 23, 2007 file photo, Knut, the polar bear cub, has its first public appearance with his keeper in the Berlin zoo.

No longer a cub, Knut grew rapidly, weighing a hulking 440-pounds (200-kilograms) by age two, and trading in white fluff for yellowish fur. Doerflein, the zookeeper who raised him, died in 2008 of a heart attack, earning front page headlines in German newspapaper as "Knut's daddy."

Between 600 and 700 people were at his compound when Knut died, zoo officials said. One visitor said she watched Knut lying on the surface of the water motionless with only his back showing for ten minutes until zookeepers came and fenced off the compound.

"Everybody was asking, 'What's going on, why is Knut not moving?'" said Camilla Verde, a 30-year-old Italian who lives in Berlin.

"All the zoo keepers who put up the fences were so very sad. One of them said, 'He was our baby,'" she said.

Some said they feared Knut had died from all the stress that stardom brings.

"I suspect he died of a heart attack," said Elke Neumann, who had come to Knut's enclosure when she heard of his death. "And I hope the medical officials will be able to confirm that it was because of stress."

Kid Rock excited for first SXSW visit

NEW YORK (AP)—Kid Rock has a good reason for never attending the South by Southwest Music festival: He says he's never been invited.

But this year, he's not only invited, he's the host of a party designed to give attention to some emerging acts.

"It's going to be great to check it out for the first time, be a part of it and soak it all in," he said in a phone interview this week.

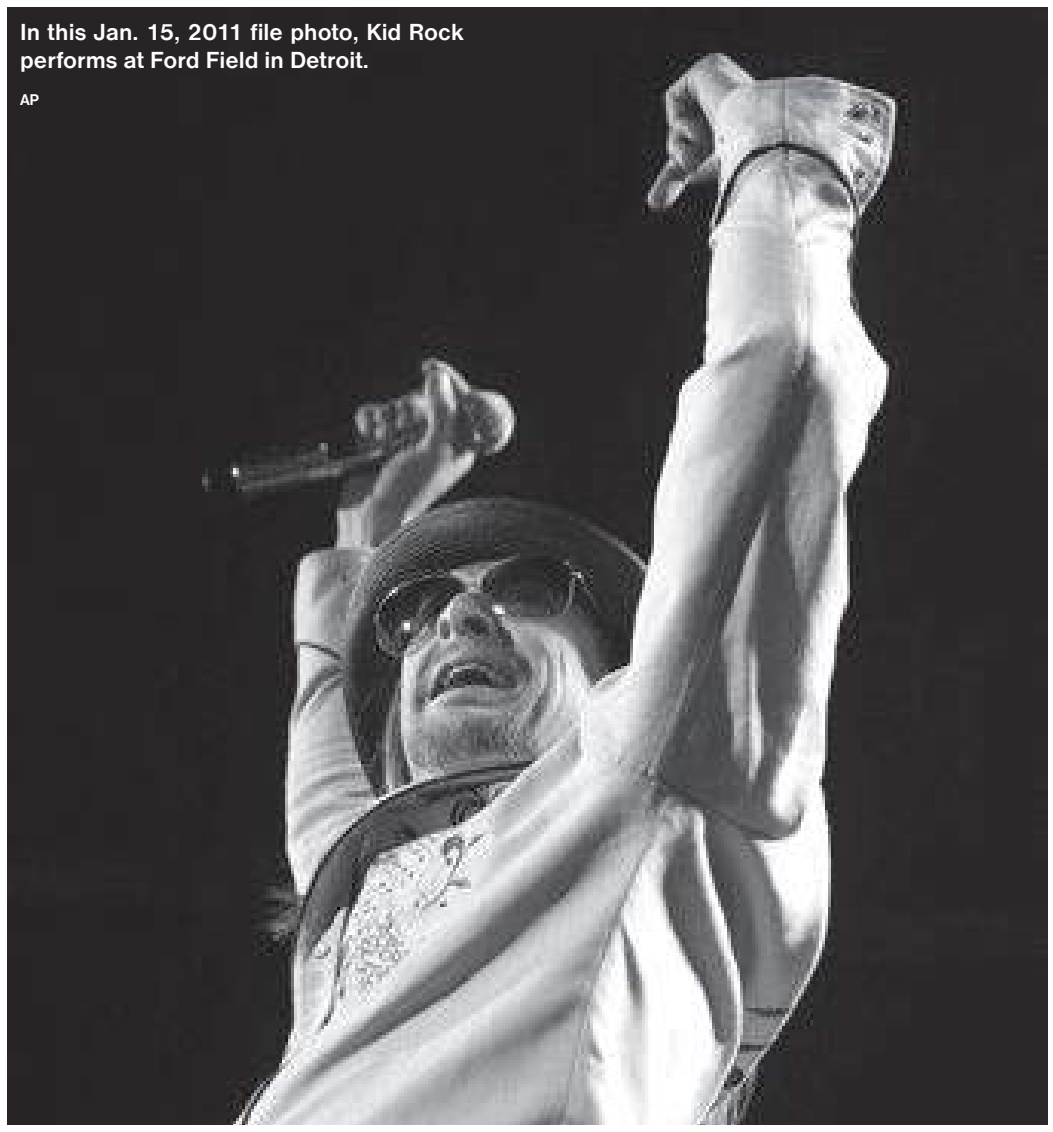
Kid Rock is hosting Jim Beam's Live Music Series at the massive festival in Austin, Texas. Friday's showcase will feature three acts: Leroy Powell, Taddy Porter and Ty Stone, who has an album coming in the next few months on Kid Rock's label, Top Dog Records.

"It's just a great showcase for up and coming new talent," he said this week. "Hopefully cream of the crop rises to the top. I think it's a great thing. I'd take that any day over `American Idol.'"

Kid Rock has been an outspoken critic of the Fox talent competition. He said he's not against the competitors, but the show itself.

"It either launches them into a world they're not prepared for yet ... and at the other level, too, there's a lot of humiliation on that show, too," he said. "There's all this talk on bullying—start with that show."

Kid Rock may have a soft spot for the young talent on the show because he's a parent. His son, Robert, is 17 and graduating from high school this year; Kid Rock said he's bypassing the upcoming Academy of Country Music Awards in part to spend time with his son before he goes to Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., in the fall.



In this Jan. 15, 2011 file photo, Kid Rock performs at Ford Field in Detroit.

AP

"I'm trying to make sure that I'm there for all the fun events that come up at the end of the school year," he said.

But even though he has a college-bound son, Kid Rock says he doesn't feel old.

"I feel young. I'm 40, my kid is going to be 18 in June and that's not really the case with all the other parents," he said. "At a time I guess when I should be feeling old, I really in a sense feel kind of young, because I really am the youngest one with the longest hair."

Trace Adkins passes 'Lincoln Lawyer' screen test

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Trace Adkins summed up his role in the new film "The Lincoln Lawyer" in his own succinct way when he gathered friends and media for a screening of it recently.

"I'm in it at the beginning and the end and there's a buncha crap in the middle," Adkins said with a smile of the movie, which opened Friday.

He's on screen about 3 minutes, but it's another solid step in the country singer's second career with a handful of parts slated for later this year.

While short, Adkins' scenes are humorous, memorable and key character development moments for star Matthew McConaughey's character, a defense attorney who operates his practice out of a Lincoln. Adkins plays a biker in the film who has engaged McConaughey to represent a member of his gang.

McConaughey, a country music fan, invited him to try out for the role, but it wasn't given to him.

"I had to go read for it," Adkins said last week. "And I really appreciate the fact that the director Brad Furman told me, `I didn't know who you were. You got the part because you won the part.' I appreciated that. But it kind of hurt my feelings at the same time. I thought I was a bigger deal than that. What do you mean you don't know who I am?'"

Once he got the part, Adkins said McConaughey made sure he was able to make the best of it.

"He was very generous and he went to rehearse with me before we did the scenes," Adkins said. "I went over to his trailer and he said, `Let's rehearse these scenes, let's do this and let's do that.' I thought it was very gracious to do that. Here's an old guy that don't know what I'm doing. He took me under his wing and helped me out."

AP

In this film publicity image released by Lionsgate, country singer Trace Adkins portrays Eddie Vogel in a scene from "The Lincoln Lawyer."

Report: Valerie Plame Wilson to pen suspense books

NEW YORK (AP)—Former CIA operative Valerie Plame Wilson is turning to fiction writing more than three years after publishing a memoir about her career.

The New York Times reports that Wilson has a book deal with Penguin Group USA for a series of international suspense novels. The newspaper says she will team up with mystery writer Sarah Lovett on the books, which will feature a fictional operative.

Wilson tells the Times she's frustrated by portrayals of female CIA agents in popular culture that emphasize their looks rather than their brains.

Wilson's 2007 memoir, "Fair Game," told the story of her CIA career and her 2003 outing that led to the indictment of Vice President Dick Cheney's top aide, I. Lewis Libby. Her first fiction book is due out next year.

Valerie Plame Wilson of Count Down to Zero poses for a portrait at the Gibson Guitar Lounge during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in this January 25, 2010 file photo.

AP

CBS in jam: Cover Obama or stick with NCAA games?

NEW YORK (AP)—For two days running, the nation's First Basketball Fan forced CBS into difficult decisions about covering him or sticking with the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

President Barack Obama held news conferences during the first two full days of the NCAA tournament, a lucrative event that CBS covers for more than nine hours each day and is something of a national holiday for sports fans. On Friday, Obama talked to the nation about possible military action in Libya, and on Thursday, he sought to assure Americans that harmful levels of radiation were not expected to reach the country from Japan.

The president is a big basketball fan who unveiled his NCAA brackets to ESPN before the tournament (picking Kansas as the men's champion and Connecticut as the women's).

CBS took different approaches each day. The network did not cover the president live on Thursday, instead summarizing his speech in a one-minute report aired during a break in NCAA coverage within a half-hour of his appearance.

On Friday, Obama was due to talk about Libya at 2 p.m. EDT during the network's coverage of the Texas-Oakland game. CBS ran a crawl at the bottom of the screen saying the game would shift to broadcast partner TNT when the president's address began.

Obama appeared about 20 minutes late, when the game was largely decided. CBS ran a split screen, with audio of Obama and his picture on the top, and a silent broadcast of the game on the bottom. Obama filled the screen when the game concluded.

Friday's speech, about the possibility of U.S. military involvement, was more newsworthy than Thursday's and compelled the live coverage, said CBS News President David Rhodes.

"You've got a large audience for the game; you don't want to alienate them," Rhodes said. "You also want them to see the news."

CBS executives discussed a range of options, including pulling away from the game entirely or not airing the live report, he said. One thing that may have avoided an internal battle between news and sports: CBS Sports chief Sean McManus was, up until a month ago, also CBS News president.

CBS and partner Turner Sports are in the first year of a 14-year, $10.8 billion contract to air the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

AP

President Barack Obama makes a statement on Libya, Friday, March 18, 2011, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Chow to receive Asian Film Awards lifetime honor

HONG KONG (AP)—Raymond Chow, the veteran Hong Kong producer who introduced Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan to an international audience, will be honored for lifetime achievement at the fifth Asian Film Awards ceremony on Monday.

Organizers of the Hong Kong event said Friday that the 83-year-old filmmaker was "instrumental in making Asian cinema the global cinematic and box office force it is today."

Chow worked at the famed Shaw Brothers studios before leaving to found Golden Harvest in 1970. The breakaway company jump-started Lee's career with hits like "Fist of Fury" and "Enter the Dragon." In 1979, it signed Chan, casting him in his first English-language productions, including the star-studded 1981 action comedy "The Cannonball Run."

Golden Harvest also made the "Once Upon a Time in China" series starring Jet Li.

Spokesman: Wyclef Jean shot in hand in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A spokesman for Wyclef Jean says the hip-hop star has been released from a hospital after being treated for a gunshot wound to his hand.

AP

Haitian-American singer Wyclef Jean, whose bid for president ended with an August disqualification, speaks during a press conference in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in this Nov. 29, 2010 file photo.

Joe Mignon, senior program director for Jean's Yele Foundation, says Jean was shot in the hand after 11 p.m. local time Saturday in the city of Delmas, just outside Port-au-Prince.

Jean's brother, Samuel, confirmed the musician was shot. Neither he nor Mignon had additional details.

The shooting comes on the eve of presidential elections in Haiti. Jean is supporting fellow musician Michel Martelly.

A spokesman for the Haitian National Police could not be immediately reached for comment.

Ricky Martin, '30 Rock' among GLAAD media winners

NEW YORK (AP)—Russell Simmons, Ricky Martin and the HBO drama series "True Blood" are among this year's recipients of media awards from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Other winners of the 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards, presented Saturday in New York, include the NBC comedy "30 Rock" and CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" for its series on gay teen suicides. Music mogul Simmons received the Excellence in Media Award.

Martin was cited for an appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in which the pop singer discussed raising twin boys and his decision to come out as gay.

Spanish-language networks Univision and Telemundo were also recognized.

Scissor Sisters were named outstanding music artists for the album "Night Work." The website Essence.com was saluted for outstanding digital journalism.

Nonelectronic media winners include The New York Times columnist Frank Rich and Peter David for his Marvel comic book "X-Factor."

The GLAAD Media Awards recognize fair, accurate and inclusive representation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives in the media.

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2011 file photo, actor-singer Ricky Martin poses for a portrait in New York.

Winners were announced in 25 of this year's total of 32 media categories. The remaining awards will be presented at ceremonies to be held in Los Angeles and San Francisco in April and May, respectively.

Billy Ray Cyrus withdraws divorce filing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Billy Ray Cyrus is trying to save his marriage.

He withdrew his divorce filing last Friday in Williamson County Court in Tennessee. His attorney and the judge signed an order withdrawing the divorce papers. It says he and his wife of 17 years, Tish, are attempting to reconcile.

Cyrus told ABC's "The View" that for the first time in a long time his entire family is communicating with each other, and that things are really the best they've ever been.

He released a joint statement with Tish in October announcing the split. They have three children together, including pop-star Miley Cyrus, and two from Tish's previous marriage.

Charlie Sheen adds 12 more dates to his live tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen's "Violent Torpedo of Truth" is growing.

Sheen is adding a dozen more dates to his live show, which is now set to stretch into Canada and continue through May 3.

The outspoken actor announced his first two live performances last week on his Twitter account. Those shows in Detroit and Chicago sold out quickly.

Earlier this week, Sheen added an additional five dates. He tacked on a dozen more late Thursday, including stops in Toronto, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sheen has not revealed the content of the show, other than to call it "the REAL story."

Tickets for the latest dates go on sale Saturday.

AP

In this Jan. 28, 2009 file photo, actor Charlie Sheen is interviewed at an event to celebrate Planet Hollywood's purchase of Italian restaurant chain Buca di Beppo, at Universal CityWalk in Los Angeles.

Despite divorce, ex-wife remains man's best friend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently began dating a dear friend of two years I'll call "Harry." We have discussed marriage, and he is keenly interested in having children. He was married to his ex-wife for 18 years and they had no children.

Abby, Harry's close relationship with his ex is making me uncomfortable. She lives five minutes away and they socialize at least twice a week. He had fought the divorce, but says he's relieved the two of them remain friendly.

I love Harry dearly, but I have told him I think that I -- not his ex—should be his best friend. He gently told me that is out of the question, and I can expect her to attend all family holiday celebrations and other functions.

We ended our relationship as amicably as possible after he said his ex-wife laughed at my not wanting to be part of his "harem." I am devastated. Was I unreasonable?

WOUNDED IN HOUSTON

DEAR WOUNDED: Not at all. You have my sympathy, and you were right to end the romance. Harry is still too emotionally tied to his ex-wife to be married to anyone else. And she knows that, which is why she laughed.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am beginning the process of planning my 20th high school reunion. Last spring, one of my classmates died after a heroic battle with cancer. He was well-loved by his friends and family, and I am wondering if we should invite his widow to the reunion. She did not go to our high school, but many of my classmates know her through her husband and I think they would appreciate her being there.

I am hesitating because I'm unsure whether it would be appropriate to invite her, and also how I can ensure that the experience won't be awkward. Do you think it's a good idea to invite her?

WONDERING IN SEATTLE

DEAR WONDERING: To invite your late classmate's wife would be a caring gesture. She might be touched that you wanted to include her. Send the invitation with a personal note telling her you would welcome seeing her—but do not be surprised if she chooses not to attend.

P.S. If she doesn't, send her a copy of the program for that evening with recent pictures of his former classmates, and if there's a tribute page, be sure her late husband's name is included on it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating the same wonderful man nearly a year now. Although we are not yet engaged, we are headed in that direction and are already discussing wedding plans.

His mother, whom I adore, has offered to make my wedding gown. I am ecstatic at the prospect, but I have a question: Should I offer to pay for the material or just accept this generous gift?

PRE-ENGAGED IN GULFPORT, MISS.

DEAR PRE-ENGAGED: If your boyfriend's mother is not only embracing you but measuring you for a wedding dress, I'd say you're further along than "pre-"engaged. And what a marvelous gift she is offering. By all means offer to pay for the material -- but I have a strong suspicion that she'll refuse to accept any money. From your description, she is a sweetheart.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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1130 Walnut, Kansas City, Mo. 64106; (816) 581-7500

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

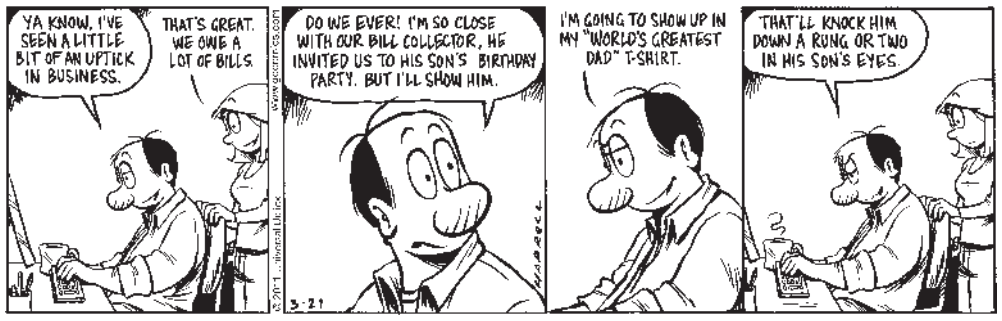
WELL LOOK AT YOU! DON'T YOU LOOK NICE AND NEAT!
YES, I BELIEVE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD GROOMING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'D BETTER GET IN THE TUB IF I WANT TO BE IN BED ON TIME.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YA KNOW, I'VE SEEN A LITTLE BIT OF AN UPTICK IN BUSINESS.
THAT'S GREAT. WE OWE A LOT OF BILLS.
DO WE EVER! I'M SO CLOSE WITH OUR BILL COLLECTOR, HE INVITED US TO HIS SON'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. BUT I'LL SHOW HIM.
I'M GOING TO SHOW UP IN MY "WORLD'S GREATEST DAD" T-SHIRT.
THAT'LL KNOCK HIM DOWN A RUNG OR TWO IN HIS SON'S EYES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

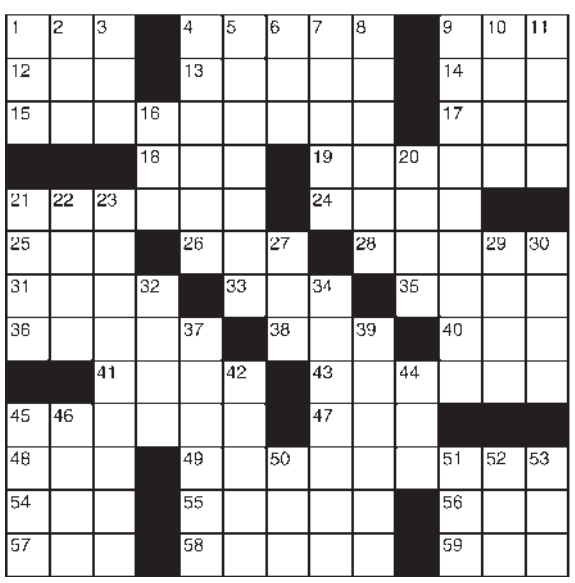
ACROSS
1 Components of psyches
4 Dervish
9 Atl. counterpart
12 Meadow
13 Sierra —
14 "Ben- —"
15 Lustful
17 Historic period
18 Old Oldsmobile
19 Sacred beetle
21 Indiana basketball team
24 Coin of the Continent
25 Durham sch.
26 Boar's mate
28 Whom Bugs bugs
31 Goblet feature
33 Zodiac feline
35 Seep out
36 Calligraphy stroke
38 Plant sticker
40 Gun-lobby org.
41 Leave out
43 Needle partner
45 Jaunty
47 Luau bowlful
48 One's years
49 Greek historian
54 Poolroom stick
55 Obliterate
56 Raw rock
57 Affirmative
58 Fender benders
59 Stick with a kick

DOWN
1 Ailing
2 Sandra or Ruby
3 Pouch
4 Laughs derisively
5 Spray-can contents
6 "Kitchy-—!"
7 Occupied
8 Save
9 Stimulating secretion
10 Emanation
11 Grouch
16 Charlemagne's realm (Abbr.)
20 Singer Guthrie
21 Face, slangily
22 Initial chip
23 Tennessee tribespeople
27 Charlotte's creation
29 Pound of poetry
30 Scan
32 Actress Rogers
34 Overseas military base
37 Went after marlin
39 Colossus of —
42 Yonder
44 Carnival city
45 Risque
46 Chills and fever
50 Skedaddled
51 Youngster
52 Coffee vessel
53 Collection

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	T	M	■	C	A	M	P	■	S	C	A	B
C	H	I	■	A	L	A	R	■	P	O	M	E
T	A	N	■	S	U	M	O	■	A	R	I	A
S	I	X	T	H	M	A	N	A	W	A	R	D
■	■	■	H	E	S	■	G	I	N	■	■	■
S	T	R	A	W	■	F	E	D	■	B	A	Y
P	E	E	N	■	C	O	D	■	W	I	S	E
Y	A	M	■	B	O	X	■	M	I	G	H	T
■	■	■	G	U	M	■	S	O	S	■	■	■
T	H	I	R	D	M	A	N	T	H	E	M	E
R	A	C	E	■	O	R	E	O	■	A	L	R
A	L	O	E	■	D	E	E	R	■	S	K	I
P	E	N	T	■	E	A	R	S	■	Y	E	N

Saturday's answer 2-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Broderick, 49; Rosie O'Donnell, 49; Gary Oldman, 53; Timothy Dalton, 67

Happy Birthday: Get to the bottom of things and make choices that will reduce the stress you are feeling and help you take control of your life and your future. Common sense and moderation are what's required. It's keeping things simple and moving along that will lead to stability and greater personal and financial security. Your numbers are 2, 12, 18, 25, 32, 34, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take everything in stride. It's up to you to face each battle with patience and the realization that you can only do so much and, after that, it's out of your hands. Live, love and laugh. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Problems with acquaintances or people you have to work alongside will develop due to deception. Try to be as straightforward as possible. It will be important for you to be intuitive and to read between the lines. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make professional moves or exploit your talents in areas you haven't infiltrated in the past. Love is in the stars and making a move toward a commitment or getting closer to someone special will boost your morale. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Think twice before making any sort of change, move or statement. Not everyone will agree with your plans and objections, and criticism can be expected. Work quietly on your own for now. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Hop to it and you will fit everything you want to accomplish into your day. There is nothing you cannot do if you put your mind to it. Travel, love and communications will all play a vital role in your progress. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There is plenty that must be dealt with before you can make any financial decisions. Look at your assets and consider what you can afford. The budget you set now will determine how well you will do this month. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let uncertainty be your downfall, especially when dealing with important partnerships. Be creative and innovative in the way you approach others. Overreacting will lead to an unhealthy dispute. 3 stars

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your emotions out. You have to be willing to speak up about the way you feel and what you want and need in your life. It's your conviction and dedication that will win favors. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more time and effort into home, family and your future. You should make a move or travel a distance if it will help you obtain a better paying position. New surroundings will lift your spirits and help you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll have to be very careful what you say and do. You will meet with opposition and any form of overindulgence—emotionally, physically, mentally or financially—will only make matters worse. Keep a low profile and a watchful eye on what others are doing. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything is looking favorable. An opportunity that will allow you to bring in a steady stream of cash is apparent. Your creative and inventive way of doing things will capture someone's attention and a contract or partnership can be formed. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your energy to good use. Someone's uncertainty will be a result of your not being able to make up your mind. Try not to confuse the people who truly want to help you get ahead. Listen and respond positively. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a strong competitor and address issues head on. You are a good listener and you make sound and practical choices.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7		5	8		
	3			9			5	
9		5			3	2		
3		4						8
	9		2	3	7		4	
1						5		9
		3	5			9		2
	7			4			6	
		6	9		8			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	2	3	7	6	9	1	8
9	1	8	5	4	2	7	3	6
3	7	6	8	9	1	5	2	4
6	2	3	1	5	9	8	4	7
1	5	7	4	3	8	2	6	9
4	8	9	6	2	7	1	5	3
2	6	5	7	8	4	3	9	1
7	3	4	9	1	5	6	8	2
8	9	1	2	6	3	4	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROBERT SARGENT SHRIVER (1915-2011) **Solution: 8 letters**

L	H	S	P	R	O	C	B	O	J	O	S	E	P	H
Y	E	E	D	L	A	I	C	O	S	C	H	O	O	L
Y	C	A	A	E	A	Y	H	T	O	M	I	T	S	C
L	V	I	D	D	D	N	N	U	S	A	R	G	E	E
E	E	A	L	E	S	I	M	O	M	R	I	F	L	V
M	U	S	N	O	R	T	S	A	H	A	T	C	O	I
A	U	N	N	A	P	S	A	E	R	T	N	I	I	F
R	E	L	I	U	I	U	H	R	R	G	N	T	R	R
K	G	R	L	C	O	L	B	I	T	P	O	A	O	E
Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓦ	Ⓢ	I	E	C	A	L	P	S	N	R	V	E
M	M	R	E	T	N	E	C	D	I	C	I	C	P	D
A	E	E	T	S	I	S	S	A	E	C	S	O	Y	O
R	S	R	O	D	A	S	S	A	B	M	A	M	A	M
T	P	A	R	T	Y	R	A	T	N	E	M	E	L	E
G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	T	I	N	G	I	D	E	T

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Ambassador, Anthony, Arts, Assist, Center, Counsel, Democratic, Dignity, Elementary, Eunice, Firm, Five, France, Freedom, Games, Germany, Head Start, Human, Job Corps, Johnson, Joseph, Kennedy, Laws, Leadership, Maria, Mark, Mart, Medal, Mullins, Navy, Orioles, Party, Policy, Presided, Program, Public, Rare, Sarge, School, Social, Timothy, Yale

Last Saturday's Answer: Gesture

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 send $15 each (includes S&H) per title (digest-size book) in check or money order payable to: Puzzle Publications, 4520 Main St., Suite 1100, Kansas City, MO 64111 or call toll free 1-800-581-9490. Or order online at uclick.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

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4 Bed room, 2 1/2 bath house Call 788-7109 after 5:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sheila is back.
Phone for appointment,
483-8818, 235-7839

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

WHATZIT Solution: On all fours

JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670)234-6806 / 7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME OF:	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0113
JOHFANERMAY ROSE REQUERME DELA CRUZ, Minor Child, Adoptee;	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:	
FRANCISCO T. DELA CRUZ and JOSEFINA R. DELA CRUZ, Petitioners.	

Date: April 11, 2011
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: Perry B. Inos

Please take notice that at **1:30 pm, April 11, 2011**, or as soon thereafter as can be heard, this Court will hold a hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan for the specific purpose of:

1. Determining whether a decree of adoption of the minor child, Johfanermay Rose Requerme Dela Cruz should be granted to Petitioners herein.
2. Affording any party adversely affected an opportunity to be heard.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

One (1) Diesel Mechanic
Salary: $6.50 - $7.50 / hr
at least 5 years
experience required.

You may contact PMIC,
Power Plant 4
at Tel # 322-6181 or
email: cve@pmic.us

PAINTERS

Must be experienced
Finishing
Painters
2-3 Month Project

Misamis Const. (Saipan), Ltd.
Tels. 235-5238, 483-5343
483-5344

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-024 — Opening Date: Friday, 03/18/11 — Closing Date: Tuesday, 03/22/11

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS ANALYST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for finance related activities and for supervising the daily dispute management operations. Supervises support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles information from disputed accounts. Complies documents to prepare accounts for resolution. Analyzes information to validate billings. Identifies and processes necessary billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for field investigations; meets with division managers to discuss specific situations. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Prepares, reviews, and submits required documents for Administrative Hearings, Represents the corporation in Administrative Hearings for disputed accounts as assigned. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan.
SALARY: $34,176 to $41,011 per annum; Un-graded, Un-classified.
POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associates Degree or equivalent "plus" 4 years professional experience in Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Administration, or Customer Service. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work directions. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2011

Opening date: March 18, 2011 **Closing date: April 1, 2011**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position:
(1) ARFF Mechanic-III (Saipan)
(1) Secretary-II (Saipan)
(3) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Staff Attorney (Saipan)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)
(1) Port Development & Operations Specialist (Port of Saipan)
(2) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Administrative Assistant (Port of Saipan)
(1) Custodial/Maint.-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2011.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING BINS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO **res_recycling_bins@recovery.gov.mp.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 23, 2011.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"GOVERNMENT OFFICE COOL ROOF PROGRAM FOR DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO **govt_cool_roof@recovery.gov.mp.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 23, 2011.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Upset special: Butler beats Pittsburgh

WASHINGTON (AP)—The players in the Butler locker room celebrated their latest stunning upset in the NCAA tournament by screaming, exchanging high fives and hugging each other.

Across the arena, Pittsburgh forward Nasir Robinson sat in front of his locker with his shoulders slumped. His voice was barely audible.

"I take the blame, man. I take the blame for the loss," Robinson said, referring to the pivotal play in Butler's 71-70 victory over the top-seeded Panthers on Saturday night.

Matt Howard made one free throw with 0.8 seconds left to cap a wild final sequence that enabled No. 8 seed Butler (25-9) to advance to the round of 16 and deal Pittsburgh its latest painful exit from the NCAAs.

Each team had a chance to win it from the foul line in the last 2 seconds. After Butler's Shelvin Mack inexplicably fouled Gilbert Brown near midcourt with 1.4 seconds left, Brown made the first try to tie it.

He missed the second, and Howard was fouled by Robinson while grabbing the rebound—a foul even more unnecessary than the one that preceded it.

"I've been playing basketball my whole life and I know I shouldn't have done that. It was a stupid play," Robinson said. "It wasn't the ref's fault. It was my fault."

Robinson tried to answer another question, but got choked up and just shook his head side to side before putting a towel over his head.

When Howard grabbed the rebound of Brown's miss, it appeared the game was headed to overtime because the Bulldogs were out of timeouts. Then Robinson stuck his arm into the fray.

"I was really surprised," Howard said. "I felt his arm come across mine, so I just threw the ball to the rim."

Howard made the first shot, then intentionally banged the second attempt off the rim.

And soon after that, Butler was rejoicing at midcourt.

Mack scored 30 for the Bulldogs (25-9), who used a string of upsets to reach the championship game last year. Butler has won 11 straight overall and is 7-1 in its last eight NCAA tournament games.

The 30 points were two short of Mack's career high and a Butler tournament record. He went 10 for 16, including 7 of 12 from 3-point range.

Unlike Robinson, he got to laugh about a foul that never should have happened.

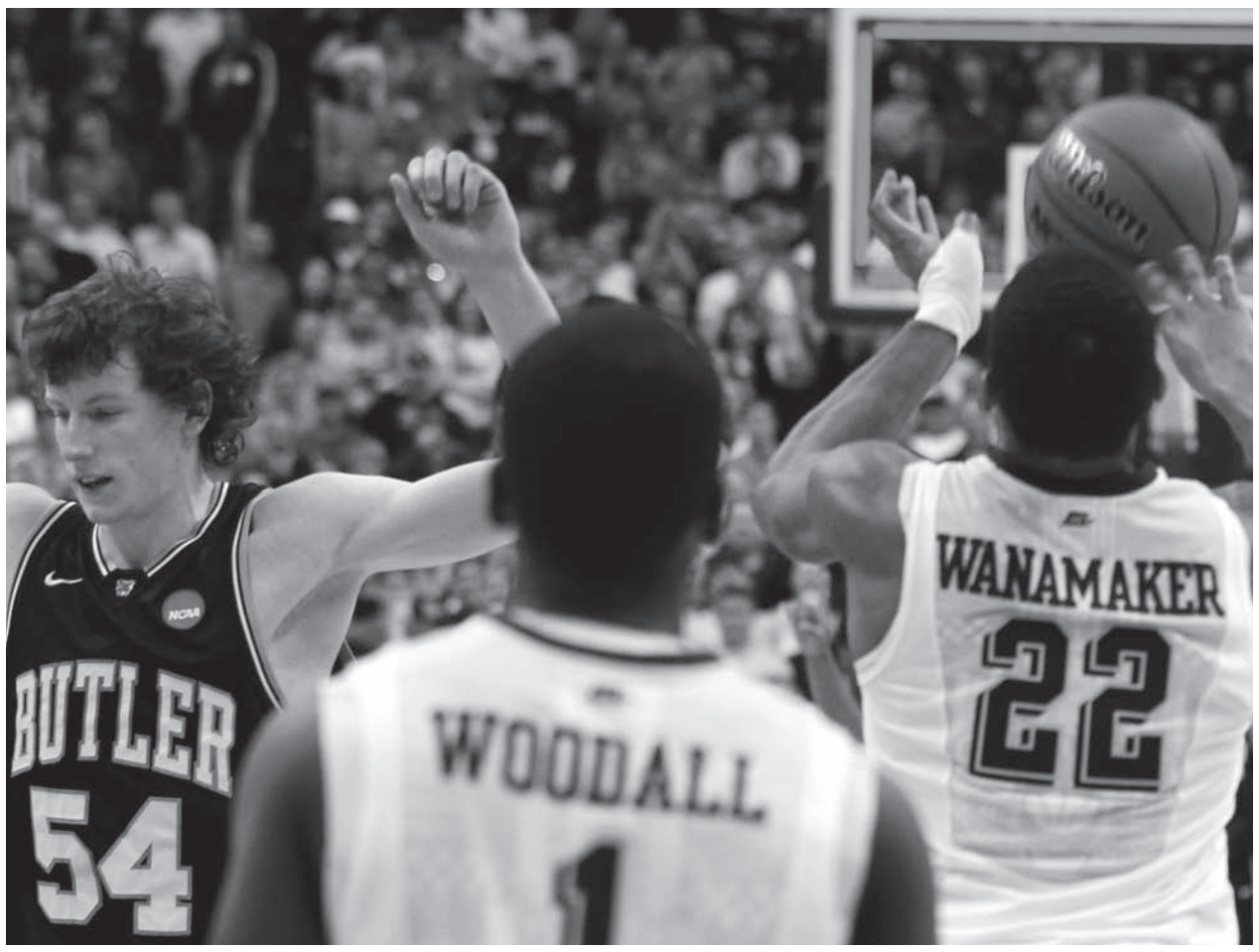
"It was the dumbest mistake of my life," he acknowledged.

The Bulldogs will next face Wisconsin in the Southeast regional semifinals. No matter what happens, it will almost certainly be tame compared to what Butler went through in Washington.

"You win two games by three points, it's going to be pretty crazy," Howard said.

In their tournament opener, the Bulldogs used a tip-in by Howard to beat Old Dominion at the buzzer. Then came this one, in which Butler blew a 12-point lead and had to rally from a five-point deficit over the final 10:37.

"We're not better than Old Dominion. We're not better than Pittsburgh," Butler coach Brad Stevens said. "We just had the ball last."



AP

Butler forward Matt Howard (54) reacts to his eventual game-winning free throw as Pittsburgh guard Brad Wanamaker attempts a shot at the buzzer in the Southeast Regional third-round NCAA tournament college basketball game, Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Verizon Center in Washington.

Pittsburgh (28-6) was seeking to reach the round of 16 for the sixth time in 10 years. Instead, the Panthers became just another victim of Butler magic.

Pitt has made the NCAA tournament in 10 straight seasons but never gotten past the round of eight. This team loses four seniors, including Brown, center Gary McGhee and guard Brad Wanamaker.

"Anytime we've lost in the tournament, there's been no good losses," coach Jamie Dixon said. "We've just got to keep working harder and keep having great years and keep putting ourselves in a position that we're in."

Brown finished with 24 points, but he will forever remember the missed free throw.

"Everything could have been avoided if I make a free throw and Nasir doesn't foul," he said.

Robinson will probably never remember he scored 16 points on 7-for-9 shooting. He blamed himself for the loss, but his teammates did not.

"It's not he did it intentionally or anything," Brown said. "He's a hard worker. He's a hustler. He was just trying to make a play out there, trying to help the team win."

The outcome might not have come down to that if the Panthers didn't have a shot-clock violation with 10 seconds left. That was one their 12 turnovers, compared to six by Butler.

Pittsburgh trailed 41-32 before Brown drilled a 3-pointer, Wanamaker made a layup and Robinson sank two straight layups to tie it with 15:24 left.

After a timeout, Wanamaker hit a jumper to cap the 11-0 run and give the Panthers their first lead since 4-2.

Soon after that, Pittsburgh reeled off seven straight points to go up 53-48.

To no one's surprise, Butler wouldn't go away.

If Mack was nervous about playing the Big East regular-season champions, it wasn't evident by his demeanor during the Star Spangled Banner: He yawned.

Once the game started, however, the junior guard played with intensity and poise. Mack scored 16 points in the first half, sinking four 3-pointers, and the Bulldogs committed only two turnovers in taking a 38-30 lead at the break.

Because the 6-foot-11 McGhee clogged the lane when Butler had the ball, the Bulldogs opted to take their chances from the outside. Howard hit a pair of 3-pointers, Mack and Shawn Vanzant also scored from beyond the arc, and Butler went 8 for 11 from the field in opening up a 20-14 lead.

Minutes later, Bulldogs reserve guard Zach Hahn connected from long range, Khyle Marshall jammed home a follow shot and Mack hit a 3 to start a 10-2 spurt that made it 30-18.

Brown then scored five points in an 11-0 Pittsburgh run that ended when Mack popped a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Pittsburgh (28-6), the Big East regular-season champion, trailed by 12 in the first half and blew a five-point lead in the second.

Wisconsin 70, Kansas State 65

At Tucson, Arizona, Jordan Taylor hit two big free throws and blocked Jacob Pullen's 3-point attempt in the closing seconds, lifting fourth-seeded Wisconsin over No. 5 Kansas State.

Taylor shot just 2 of 16 but came up with the biggest play of the game, swatting Pullen's tying attempt with Wisconsin (25-8) up three. Josh Gasser then hit two free throws to seal it, sending the Badgers into the round of 16 for the fourth time since 2000.

Jon Leuer led Wisconsin with 19 points. Taylor had 12 points, six assists, no turnovers and one big block.

Wisconsin moves on to face upset specialist Butler in the Southeast regional semifinals Thursday in New Orleans.

Pullen matched a career high with 38 points to break Mike Evans' school career scoring mark (2,115 points). Curtis Kelly (11 points) was the only other player to score in double figures for Kansas State (23-11).

San Diego State 71, Temple 64, 2 OT

At Tucson, Arizona, Billy White had 16 points and 13 rebounds and Kawhi Leonard sealed San Diego State's exhausting victory with a steal and a slam dunk.

White sank the go-ahead jumper and Leonard made two free throws as the second-seeded Aztecs (34-2) used one last burst of their magnificent athleticism to finally put away the pesky seed Owls (26-7).

Ramone Moore scored 17 for No. 7 seed Temple.

Connecticut 69, Cincinnati 58

At Washington, Kemba Walker scored 33 points and the Big East finally advanced a team to the round of 16 when Connecticut beat conference foe Cincinnati.

Walker scored 16 points over the final 10 minutes as UConn ended the game with a 24-13 run. The Huskies (28-9), the No. 3 seed in the West regional, advance to play San Diego State in Anaheim, Calif., on Thursday.

Rashad Bishop scored 22 points for the sixth-seeded Bearcats (26-9).

Cincinnati become the seventh of the Big East's record 11 NCAA tournament teams to be eliminated. The game marked the first time in NCAA history two teams from the same conference have met this early in the tournament.

Richmond 65, Morehead State 48

At Denver, Justin Harper scored 19 points and Kevin Anderson added 14, helping 12th-seeded Richmond advance to the round of 16 for the first time since 1988.

Richmond (29-7) shut down 13th-seeded Morehead State big man and NBA prospect Kenneth Faried—at least as much as anyone can these days.

Faried, the all-time Division I rebounder in the modern era, was held to 11 points and 13 rebounds as the Eagles (25-10), the darlings of the tournament after knocking off Louisville, were sent home.

BYU 89, Gonzaga 67

At Denver, Jimmer Fredette made seven 3-pointers and scored 34 points to help No. 3 seed Brigham Young defeat No. 11 Gonzaga and move to the second weekend of the NCAA tournament for the first time in 30 years.

The nation's leading scorer had trouble getting his shots in the first half. But he opened the second by hitting a 3 from five feet beyond the arc as part of an 11-2 run that broke the game open.

The Cougars (32-4) will head to New Orleans to play Florida in the Southeast regional semifinals Thursday. This is BYU's deepest run into the tournament since 1981, the year Danny Ainge went coast to coast for a last-second layup to beat Notre Dame in the round of 16.

Elias Harris and Steven Gray had 18 points for the Bulldogs (25-10).

Florida 73, UCLA 65

At Tampa, Florida, Florida little man Erving Walker came up big again, scoring 21 points and hitting several clutch shots down the stretch against UCLA.

Walker scored 10 of his team's final 12 points, including four free throws in the final 33 seconds. His most significant basket was a 3-pointer with about a minute remaining. That shot gave the second-seeded Gators (28-7) a 69-65 lead and forced the No. 7 seed Bruins (23-11) into desperation mode.

Kenny Boynton added 12 points and five assists for the Gators. Alex Tyus had a season-high 13 rebounds.

Josh Smith and Reeves Nelson led UCLA with 16 points apiece.

Kentucky 71, West Virginia 63

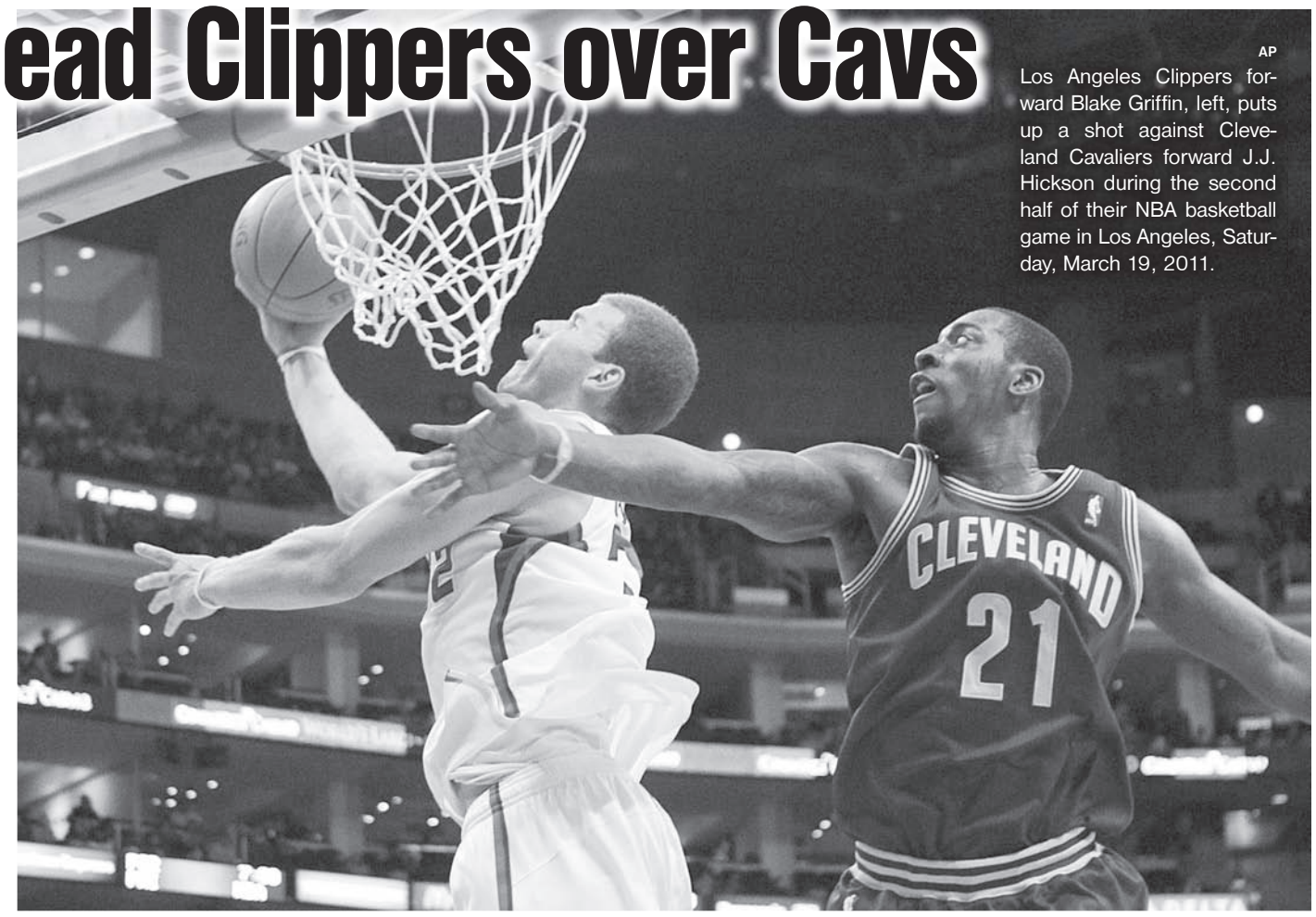
At Tampa, freshman Brandon Knight scored a career-high 30 points and Josh Harrellson delivered eight of his 15 during a pivotal stretch of the second half, helping Kentucky beat West Virginia.

Two days after his only basket helped the fourth-seeded Wildcats survive their tourney opener against Princeton, Knight led an 11-0 run coming out of halftime and made six free throws in the final minute to close out fifth-seeded West Virginia.

Kentucky (27-8) advanced to the East regional semifinals in Newark, N.J., against either No. 1 seed Ohio State or eighth-seeded George Mason. It's the second trip to the round of 16 in two seasons under coach John Calipari.

Joe Mazzulla scored 20 points to lead the Mountaineers (22-12), who reached the Final Four a year ago by beating Kentucky in a regional final.

Blake, Gordon lead Clippers over Cavs



AP
Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, left, puts up a shot against Cleveland Cavaliers forward J.J. Hickson during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, March 19, 2011.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin had 30 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Eric Gordon scored 29 as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Cleveland 100-92 on Saturday to end a nine-game losing streak against the Cavaliers.

About 1 1/2 hours before tipoff, the arena was in lockdown while police subdued a knife-wielding man who got past security and ended up in front of the Cavaliers' bench. Both teams were tucked away in their dressing rooms during the tense standoff.

It did not delay the start of the game, which was followed by an NHL contest between the Kings and Anaheim Ducks.

J.J. Hickson led the Cavs with 28 points and nine rebounds, and Samardo Samuels scored 17 before fouling out with 1:19 remaining.

Trail Blazers 110, 76ers 101

At Portland, Oregon, Wesley Matthews had 17 of his 28 points in the first quarter to help Portland beat Philadelphia.

Gerald Wallace added 25 points and a season-high eight assists for the Trail Blazers (40-29), who won for the seventh time in nine games to move within a half-game of Denver for the fifth playoff spot in the Western Conference. LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and Nicolas Batum finished with 16.

Lou Williams had 24 points, part of a 59-point night for Philadelphia's reserves. Thaddeus Young had 19 points and Jodie Meeks added 17.

The Sixers (36-34) played without Andre Igoudala, who has been bothered by knee tendinitis.

Celtics 89, Hornets 85

At New Orleans, Ray Allen scored 20 points, including the clinching free throws with 2.8 seconds left, as Boston rallied to get the win.

Allen also had a key offensive rebound that led to Glen Davis' two foul shots that made it 87-83 with 15.2 seconds remaining. Davis also had 20 points.

David West led New Orleans with 32 points. Marco Belinelli added a season-high 23 points but Chris Paul went without a basket for only the fourth time in his career, finishing 0 of 9 from the floor. He finished with four points and 15 assists.

Heat 103, Nuggets 98

At Miami, LeBron James scored 33 points and Dwyane Wade had 32 as Miami never trailed.

Chris Bosh finished with his fifth straight double-double, 18 points and 11 rebounds. But the Heat may have taken a significant hit when starting point guard Mario Chalmers was carried off the floor late in the first quarter with what was preliminarily diagnosed as a sprained right knee.

Chalmers, who has started 27 straight games since Jan. 22, will be re-examined on Sunday.

Mike Bibby, the only other true point guard on Miami's roster, scored 14.

J.R. Smith had 27 points and Danilo Gallinari finished with 23 for Denver.

Spurs 109, Bobcats 98

At San Antonio, Steve Novak scored 19 points while Tim Duncan took his first game off all season, helping San Antonio to the victory.

The Spurs let the 34-year-old Duncan rest a night after they really needed him in a win over Dallas. They managed fine without him against the sliding Bobcats, who have dropped three in a row and nine of their last 11.

Gerald Henderson led Charlotte with 19 points. Stephen Jackson, the Bobcats' leading scorer, didn't play because of a strained hamstring.

Grizzlies 99, Pacers 78

At Memphis, Tennessee, Tony Allen had 19 points and a career-high 11 rebounds to lead Memphis to the easy win.

Zach Randolph added 17 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which moved 1 1/2 games ahead of idle Utah for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Mike Conley also had 17 points to go along with nine assists.

Danny Granger and Darren Collison led the Pacers with 17 points each, and Tyler Hansbrough had 14 points.

Rose takes lead in Tampa

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Justin Rose is coming off a year in which he won two PGA Tour events on strong golf courses. He knows what to expect from his emotions in the final round and how to stay patient amid a crowded leaderboard.

The four guys behind him have never won.

And that made Rose's one-shot lead Saturday in the Transitions Championship seem a little larger.

"It doesn't mean it's all going to go smoothly tomorrow," Rose said. "You have to be ready for whatever happens. But at least I kind of am aware of the ups and downs, and the things I'm going to face. And I think that maybe it's a lot easier to deal with."

Rose was patient for long enough for the birdies to fall, and he shot a second straight round of 6-under 65 in more perfect conditions at Innisbrook to build a lead over Brendon de Jonge and Webb Simpson.

A 6-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole put Rose at 13-under 200, one shot off the 54-hole tournament record.

De Jonge and Simpson have never won on the PGA Tour. Neither have the two guys another shot behind—rookie Scott Stalling, who only made his first cut in the big leagues last week in Puerto Rico; and Gary Woodland, who lost in a playoff at the Bob Hope Classic this year.

"You want to give yourself a chance to win, and I have that opportunity now," de Jonge said.

Simpson, whose wife recently gave birth to their first child, kept pace with Rose for much of the day until dropping shots on two of the tough par 3s on the back nine. He still had a third straight 67 and was trying not to think ahead to Sunday.

"This course is tough enough to where you've got to think about the hole you're on," Simpson said. "That is what we dream about, and this is what we practice for, to have a chance on Sunday. So I'm looking forward to the challenge."

De Jonge earned a spot in the final group with a steady round of 66.

Nine players were separated by only three shots going into the final round, and while most of them don't have Rose's winning experience, there is a name that is hard to ignore. Nick Watney, coming off a World Golf Championship title last week at Doral, had seven birdies in his round of 65 and was in the group at 10-under 203 with Brandt Snedeker, who shot a 67.

Garrett Willis and Chris Couch, the co-leaders after the second round, each shot 70 to fall back, although they were still in the mix.

Sergio Garcia finally made a bogey in America this year—it's his first PGA Tour event since last August—and then made four more in a round of 72 that most likely left him too far behind. He was six shots back.

PGA champion Martin Kaymer, the No. 1 player in the world, had a 71 and was nine shots behind.

Rose was closer to the cut line than the top of the leaderboard halfway through his second round until he ran off five birdies on the back nine of Innisbrook and wound up with a 65. He had five birdies on his next nine—the front nine Saturday—to take the lead.

NFL, players continue back-and-forth words dispute

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. (AP)—So this is what the NFL and players are reduced to: Both sides are writing letters and issuing statements to and about each other, disputing "facts" and seeking to frame the back-and-forth about the sport's first work stoppage since 1987.

The locked-out players wrote a letter to Commissioner Roger Goodell on Saturday, responding to an email he sent them Thursday and telling him: "Your statements are false."

In a four-page letter, the 11 members of the NFL Players Association executive committee told Goodell that, during labor negotiations, the league's owners did not justify "their demands for a massive giveback which would have resulted in the worst economic deal for players in major pro sports."

When Goodell wrote all active NFL players on Thursday, he outlined the league's description of its last proposal, which was made March 11. That turned out to be the 16th and final day of mediated talks, and the old labor deal expired. Goodell ended his letter by saying: "I hope you will encourage your union to return to the bargaining table and conclude a new collective bargaining agreement."

Players were upset by that line, particularly the reference to "your union." When the NFLPA dissolved March 11, it renounced its status as a union that can bargain on behalf of its members and said it is now a trade association, which allowed players to sue the league under antitrust laws. The league calls that move a "sham."

A hearing on the players' request for a preliminary injunction to stop the lockout is scheduled for April 6 in Minnesota, and there appears little chance of a return to bargaining before then.

In a statement emailed to reporters by the league Saturday, hours after the NFLPA released its letter to Goodell, NFL executive vice president Jeff Pash began: "We are pleased now to have received a reply to the comprehensive proposal that we made eight days ago."

Pash, the league's lead labor negotiator, also said: "Debating the merits of the offer in this fashion is what collective bargaining is all about. ... This letter again proves that the most sensible step for everyone is to get back to bargaining."

As if anticipating that the league would seek to portray the players' letter as a formal reply to the owners' proposal, the NFLPA executive committee noted in its final paragraph: "We no longer have the authority to collectively bargain on behalf of the NFL players. ..."

Their letter began, "Dear Roger," and closed with "Sincerely," followed by the names of Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch, Saints quarterback Drew Brees, Broncos safety Brian Dawkins, Ravens cornerback Domonique Foxworth, Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, Jets fullback Tony Richardson, Colts center Jeff Saturday, Chiefs linebacker Mike Vrabel, Chiefs guard Brian Waters and former players Sean Morey and Kevin Mawae, the NFLPA president.

"We were due to respond," Fujita said Saturday at Marco Island, where the NFLPA is holding its annual convention for players. "The letter gives a true testament to what went on, what the offer was, and what it meant to the players."

The owners begin two days of meetings Monday in New Orleans.

In Saturday's letter, the players went through various parts of the last NFL offer, including saying that the league's salary-cap proposals "were based on unrealistically low revenue projections."

"You had ample time over the last two years to make a proposal that would be fair to both sides, but you failed to do so. During the last week of the mediation, we waited the entire week for the NFL to make a new economic proposal," the players wrote to Goodell. "That proposal did not come until 12:30 (p.m.) on Friday, and, when we examined it, we found it was worse than the proposal the NFL had made the prior week when we agreed to extend the mediation."

They concluded their letter by telling Goodell that if he has "any desire to discuss a settlement of the issues" in the antitrust suit filed by 10 players—including star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Brees—he should contact their lawyers.

Rollers leave for Guam's March Madness Invitational

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Members of the Rollers U20 Team pose for a picture at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport on Saturday before leaving for Guam for the March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Invitational Tournament.

Saipan's Rollers Basketball Club U20 Team left for Guam on Saturday afternoon to compete in the 2011 March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Invitational Tournament at the Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex in Andersen Air Force Base.

The 11-member squad will be competing against six teams in Pool A, including the Proa/CNMI Nationals. Pool B also has seven squads, including Hoopaholics, who touched down on Guam Saturday morning. This will be the first appearance of all Saipan teams in the invitational tournament.

Playing for the Rollers are Ezra Caro, Ben Lisua, Eugene Manglona, Manny Matagolai, Ham Hambros, Don Teregeyo, Zack Babauta, Jojo Ulloa, and Shane Metran. Joe Diaz is the team's head coach.

The three Saipan teams will be competing against some U.S. Military teams in Korea, Japan, and Guam, which also have local squads. Unfortunately there were a few teams from Japan that had to pull out because of the tsunami disaster.

The "March Madness" started yesterday with the Rollers set to debut against Area 1 All-Stars of Korea. Diaz's wards were also scheduled to play one more game in the opening day against Guam's MVP All Stars.The tournament will have a three-day round robin format for each pool with the Top 5 teams advancing to the double-elimination playoff round that concludes on March 26.

"We would like to extend special thanks to sponsors Vice Speaker Feliciad Ogumoro, representatives Ralph Yumul, Ray Tebuteb, Diego Benavente, George N Camacho, Sylvester Iguel, Joseph Palacios, Edmund Villagomez and Frederick DL Guerrero; the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Efrain Camacho and EFC Company, Mr. & Mrs. Mathilde Igitol, Doug Brennan and Mi-crol-Toyota, Elcen Rental Car, Martha's Store, National Alamo Rental Car, Pacific Islands Club, IP&E and Shell, Hollywood Theater, National Office Supply, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services, Elias Rangamar, Frank Cabrera and Rocksteady Shop, Dexter Mendiola and Fot-ten-Gaga, IT&E, NTT Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel and UBA's Hoopaholics as their collective support made our trip possible," Diaz said.

After the tournament in Guam, RBC will be hosting a U21-U25 division fundraiser event in Garapan next month and then a four-division Easter caging (U12-U15-U17-U20).

GARDNER

From Page 28

said Gardner, who clocked in at 32:22 in the two-kilometer swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Gardner was 22nd overall in the swim race and was behind by more than eight minutes against Koreans Jeong Mo, Jun Kwon, Seong Hyeon Heo, and Hwak Mok Jang. The Top 9 finishers in the swim leg were all Koreans and Gardner was in the fourth group out of the water.

By the time the Top 3 leaders past Lower Base in the bike race, Gardner was just heading out of the American Memorial Park.

"While biking, I was checking on my watch. I kept pushing and telling myself to keep a fast pace to have a chance to catch up," the U.K. triathlete said.

Heading up to the Bird Island Lookout, Gardner managed to pass two riders and was only chasing Jang. Jang then made it to the Banzai Cliff turnaround less than a minute ahead of Gardner. When it was Gardner's turn to go to the turnaround point, he had a bad fall a few meters way from the cone.

"I was knocked out by the wind. It just happened and I fell. It was my fault, as Kieran (Daly) told me not to use a disc wheel because the wind was blowing hard, but I did not listen," said Gardner, who sustained nasty scrapes on his left shoulder, arm, elbow, rib, and legs.

He was still limping when he rode his bike again and chased Jang.

"I had to bike with one hand at the handle bar and the other down, as I tried to keep my balance and fight the wind," said Gardner, who timed in at 1:31:50 in the 60K bike race, more than five minutes ahead of Jang, but was still behind by more than a minute against the Korean, coming into the run leg.

Gardner did the run leg in pain, but the soreness went away when he finally past Jang around the 8K mark of the 15K run near the Oleai Beach.

"I forgot I had bruises. I just ran as fast as I can," said Gardner, who a few steps away from the finish line looked back and saw that this time Jang and Byun Eun Jeon were the ones chasing him, but they failed.

Gardner had a big smile on his face when he crossed the finish line, as he completed one of the hardest races he had.

"In my four years on Saipan, I never had a crash. This year alone, I crashed during XTERRA and now in Tagaman. Two crashes in one year. It was really tough, the Koreans gave me a scare, but I am glad I survived," said Gardner, who submitted 59:18 in the run leg for the second best time behind Jeon.

Jeon stole the runner-up finish from Jang with the former clocking in at 3:06:05 against the latter's 3:06:39. Yun Ho Seo (3:13:28) and Mok (3:14:49) finished fourth and fifth, respectively, leaving Gardner as the lone non-Korean Top 5 finisher.

BATTING

From Page 28

the plate a league leading 12 times; Jerald Cabrera is in second place with eight. Jeffrey Lizama also drove in 10 RBIs so far this season and leads the category ahead of Yamagata's four.

Rogolifoi leads the league in triples so far with three and jacked a towering solo home run over the right center field fence in last Sunday's game against the Jets. So far, five junior leaguers have hit a homer in total, but only Rogolifoi's left the yard.

Junior league batting statistics were formulated based on 12 at bats or more.

In pitching, Ol'Aces' Jessie Brel has hurled nine shut out innings to maintain a perfect 0.00 earned run average. Jeffrey Lizama (9IP, 1ER, 0.77ERA), Jeremy Lizama (15.2IP, 2ER, 0.87ERA), Survivors' Jose Lizama (11IP, 2ER, 1.27ERA), Guerrero (14IP, 3ER, 1.50ERA) and Jets' Jonathan Villagomez (14IP, 3ER, 1.50ERA) completed the Top 6.

Lions' Justin Reyes leads the league in strikeouts with 28, ahead of Natibu Falcons' Frankie Lieto (27), Guerrero (24), Jeremy Lizama (23), and Red Sox's Alex Mongkeya (23).

Junior league pitching statistics were based on nine innings or more.

In the Big League, Maratita's teammate Kevin Villagomez is tied for second, batting with JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters' Anthony Guerrero; both players are 7-for-13 for a 0.538 average. Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers' MacGarett Duenas (7-for-15, 0.466), Hustlers' Joaquin Muna (6-for-13, 0.461), Speaker Eli Cabrera-Rep. Fred DL Guerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Lions' Richard Dela Cruz (5-for-11, 0.454), Natibu Northern Stars' Josh Jones (8-for-18, 0.444), IT&E's Jonathan Celis (8-for-18, 0.444), Docomo Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama (5-for-13, 0.384), Ol'Aces' Rocco Reyes (5-for-14, 0.357), IT&E's Marvin Ngeskebei (6-for-17, 0.352) and Northern Stars' Dave Jones (6-for-17, 0.352) rounded out the Top 12.

Josh Jones and the Hustlers' Nokki Saralu are tied for most runs scored with eight apiece. Josh Jones is also tied with Maratita in most doubles hit with three apiece.

Sixteen different players have belted a triple thus far, while Celis has bragging rights for the only home run. Maratita leads the league in RBIs with seven ahead of Keoni Lizama (6) and Celis (5).

Batting statistics were based on 11 times at bat or more.

In pitching, Josh Jones has allowed just one earned run in 19 innings to claim top ERA onors with a 0.36. Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura (16IP, 1ER, 0.43ERA) and Lions' Mike Iguel (13IP, 2ER, 1.07ERA) have also maintained strong numbers.

Josh Jones is in front in strikeouts with 44 and that is not including a 17-strikeout performance last Monday against the Hunters. Nakamura (20) and IT&E's Nathan Guerrero (18) rounded out the Top 3.

Meanwhile, SLLB will be holding the 2011 Home Run Derby on March 24 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfields starting a 2:30pm.

Registration is on Thursday with an entrance fee of $5 per player. The 9 to 12-year-old participants will compete at the "Tan Ge" field, while 13 to 18 year olds will slug it out at the "Tan Ko" field. This event is open to the public; you do not have to be a SLLB player to compete. Prizes await winners.

For more information about the Home Run Derby contact SLL Manager's representative Bernard Cabrera at 287-7252.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	19	.721	—
New York	35	33	.515	14
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	14
New Jersey	22	45	.328	26 1/2
Toronto	19	49	.279	30

Southeast Division

x-Miami	48	22	.686	—
x-Orlando	44	26	.629	4
Atlanta	39	30	.565	8 1/2
Charlotte	28	41	.406	19 1/2
Washington	16	51	.239	30 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	49	19	.721	—
Indiana	30	40	.429	20
Milwaukee	27	41	.397	22
Detroit	25	44	.362	24 1/2
Cleveland	13	55	.191	36

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	56	13	.812	—
Dallas	48	21	.696	8
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17
Memphis	38	32	.543	18 1/2
Houston	36	34	.514	20 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	45	23	.662	—
Denver	41	29	.586	5
Portland	40	29	.580	5 1/2
Utah	36	33	.522	9 1/2
Minnesota	17	53	.243	29

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	49	20	.710	—
Phoenix	34	33	.507	14
Golden State	30	39	.435	19
L.A. Clippers	27	43	.386	22 1/2
Sacramento	16	51	.239	32

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
L.A. Clippers 100, Cleveland 92
Miami 103, Denver 98
Memphis 99, Indiana 78
Boston 89, New Orleans 85
San Antonio 109, Charlotte 98
Portland 110, Philadelphia 101

TRANSITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PALM Harbor, Florida (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Transitions Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the par-71, 7,332-yard Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Copperhead Course:

THIRD ROUND

Justin Rose	70-65-65	—200
Brendon de Jonge	69-66-66	—201
Webb Simpson	67-67-67	—201
Scott Stallings	66-70-66	—202
Gary Woodland	67-68-67	—202
Nick Watney	66-72-65	—203
Brandt Snedeker	72-64-67	—203
Garrett Willis	66-67-70	—203
Chris Couch	69-64-70	—203
Jonathan Byrd	70-67-67	—204
Martin Laird	66-70-68	—204
Roland Thatcher	68-67-69	—204
Chez Reavie	70-70-65	—205
Stewart Cink	68-70-67	—205
Peter Hanson	69-67-69	—205
Jason Day	70-71-65	—206
Rory Sabbatini	67-72-67	—206
Trevor Immelman	72-66-68	—206
Zach Johnson	70-68-68	—206
David Toms	69-68-69	—206
Jim Furyk	67-70-69	—206
Paul Casey	64-71-71	—206
Sergio Garcia	68-66-72	—206
J.J. Henry	69-72-66	—207
Kent Jones	70-71-66	—207
Brian Gay	67-73-67	—207
John Senden	67-72-68	—207
Justin Leonard	67-71-69	—207
Ryan Palmer	72-69-67	—208
Alex Cejka	73-68-67	—208
Troy Matteson	70-69-69	—208
Vijay Singh	68-70-70	—208
Chad Campbell	69-69-70	—208
Kevin Sutherland	68-69-71	—208
Matteo Manassero	68-68-72	—208
Marc Turnesa	68-67-73	—208
George McNeill	71-70-68	—209
Retief Goosen	72-69-68	—209
Brian Davis	70-71-68	—209
Charley Hoffman	68-71-70	—209
Martin Kaymer	68-70-71	—209
Ricky Barnes	71-67-71	—209
Lucas Glover	73-64-72	—209
John Rollins	70-71-69	—210
Andres Romero	69-72-69	—210
Matt Jones	69-70-71	—210
Bobby Gates	72-67-71	—210
Jason Dufner	68-70-72	—210
Geoff Ogilvy	70-67-73	—210
Spencer Levin	70-68-72	—210
Carl Pettersson	69-68-73	—210
Ryan Moore	67-69-74	—210
Mark Wilson	70-66-74	—210
Tommy Gainey	71-70-70	—211
Steven Bowditch	72-68-71	—211
Woody Austin	71-69-71	—211
Blake Adams	68-72-71	—211
Peter Uihlein	70-69-72	—211
Bubba Watson	70-69-72	—211
Cameron Beckman	71-67-73	—211
Joe Durant	67-71-73	—211
Bill Lunde	71-69-72	—212
Will Claxton	69-70-73	—212
Zack Miller	71-70-72	—213
Kevin Stadler	72-69-72	—213
Kevin Na	69-72-72	—213
Chris Riley	69-72-72	—213
Dean Wilson	71-70-72	—213
Marc Leishman	68-73-72	—213
Shaun Micheel	70-71-72	—213
Chad Collins	68-71-74	—213
Stuart Appleby	67-69-77	—213

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Triathletes take spotlight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The week highlighted one of the biggest sports events in the CNMI—the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship—featuring both local and international triathletes.

Over 100 triathletes joined the off-road race with Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom completing a three-peat in the men's pro division, and U.S. pro Shonny Vanlandingham claiming her first women's division title after three tries and ending Renata Bucher's six-year reign.

In the team event, the trio of Kento Akimaru, Kevin Carey, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger finished first overall and ruled the mixed division. In the solo race category, 29 non-pro triathletes completed XTERRA Championship, while 17 finished XTERRA Sports course.

Other notable events last week were Mobil and Fly High's championship wins the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League and the 2011 Rocball High School Spring League, respectively, the opening of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League and 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition, and the Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions.

Mobil swept IP&E Konflikt in the best-of-three title series after winning Game 2 last Monday, 71-64. Mobil prevailed in Game 1, 84-69. Mobil guard Jun Estolas emerged as the Finals MVP.

In rocball, Fly High won the best-of-five series against Kingz, 3-1. Fly High clinched the champion last Wednesday after a 46-31 win in Game 4. The eventual champion took Games 1 and 2, while Kingz topped Game 3.

In the NMIFA youth league, Matansa and MP United had winning debuts in the boys U15 and U18 age groups, while they had a drew in the girls U15.

Still in football, MP United welcomed on Saipan sister club Vivid Blue of Japan.

In badminton, NMBA's season-opening offering lured a record of more than 100 competitors. The tournament has nine divisions with players classified from A to C classes.

In the Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions, Trench Tech's Jason "Rush" Tarkong won his return bout after a two-year absence, following a victory over TJ Cruz of Guam via rear-naked choke submission.

Meanwhile, on-going leagues continued last week with Saipan Little League Baseball having its games at the two fields at the Oleai Complex, the Chamolinian league holding matches at the Capital Hill Ballfield, and the NMIFA men's league playing at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Oleai field was also the venue of the first week of qualifying events for the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2011 XTERRA Saipan women's champion Shonny Vanlandingham, left, is joined by Carina Wasle, Renata Bucher, Suzie Snyder, and Mieko Carey at the stage for a group photo during the awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2011 XTERRA Saipan men's champion Sam Gardner, left, is joined by Takahiro Ogasawara, Paul Chetwynd, and Denilson Freitas at the stage for a group photo during the awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Kevin Carey, Kento Akimaru, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger pose for a photo after completing the relay race in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B.MONROYO
Students warm up at the Oleai track and field for the qualifying events in the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships.

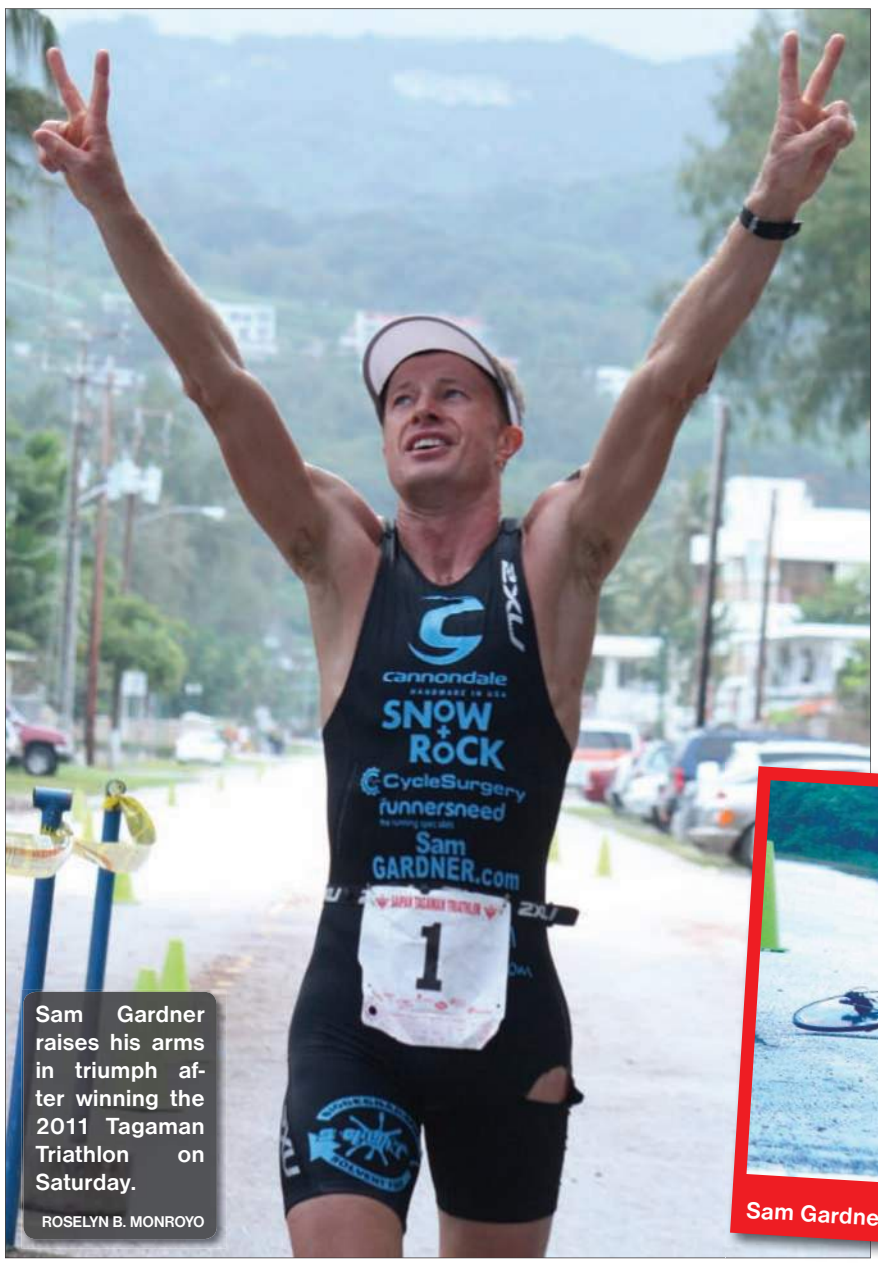
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil players pose with their championship trophy after sweeping IP&E Konflikt in the finals of the UBA/Docomo caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United and Paire player battle for the ball during their game in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA youth spring league at the CPA Field last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Jerry Tan makes the ceremonial serve while players look on during the opening of the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition at the REM Center last week.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gardner survives Koreans in Tagaman


Sam Gardner raises his arms in triumph after winning the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sam Gardner in bandages after a bad fall during the bike race.

Sam Gardner falls on the road after a nasty crash at Banzai Cliff.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sam Gardner was one brave athlete who faced tough foes, was wounded and all, but lived to tell his tale.

The United Kingdom triathlete crossed the finished line of Saturday's 2011 Tagaman Triathlon first, timing in at three hours, five minutes, and 43 seconds and later told *Saipan Tribune* how he battled a big group of Koreans in the swim leg, soldiered on after a nasty crash in the bike part, and ran bleeding and bruised in the last part of the race.

"I had a terrible swim and those Koreans were really fast. I was really lost against them and thought the fight was over,"

See GARDNER on Page 26

Upsets in women's race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For the second straight year, the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon had a surprise winner in the women's division.

Suzie Snyder stunned the favored triathletes in Saturday's race, as she emerged the top female finisher in the two-kilometer swim leg, 60K bike race, and 15K run after clocking in at three hours, 20 minutes, and 41 seconds.

The U.S. pro finished ahead of Renata Bucher, Carina Wasle, and 2010 champion Dan Bi Hong and surprised herself with her victory.

"I love doing mountain bike races and trail runs, but to my surprise I usually finished better in road races," said Snyder, who was fourth in the swim leg in the women's division and 11th overall with her 29:40, behind against three Koreans, including Hong.

The American triathlete then grabbed the lead at the halfway mark of the bike race. She timed in at 1:44:17 in the bike leg (seventh best) and submitted 1:04:16 (eighth fastest) in the run portion.

"It was a good race for me, I love the weather, it was cold and windy," Snyder said.

Triathletes raced in scattered rains and cloudy skies Saturday morning and while the condition favored Snyder, it did not to several others who crashed in the slippery road.

Off-island riders were the most victims of crashes, especially in the tricky "elbow" road going up the Bird Island Lookout. Five female Koreans were among the casualties and did not finish the race.

It was a different story for Hong, who raced the first 20K of the bike leg, but decided to quit due to a back injury. Hong was the second out of the water in the women's division, timing in at 25:45 before pulling the plug in the bike leg.

Mieko moves up

Mieko Carey also pulled off an upset in the women's division after finishing second to Snyder. The Saipan bet timed in at 3:27:30 to place ahead of Wasle (3:28:55) and Bucher (2:32:13).

Her runner-up finish was a big leap from her 2010 performance where she placed fourth and it redeemed her from a so-so race in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship. The 32-year-old triathlete was first out of the water in XTERRA, but ended up in fifth place, as she lost her legs in the bike and run races.

Carey's time in XTERRA was 3:30:37, but in the longer Tagaman race, she was faster.

"I learned my lesson not to push myself hard in the swim leg. I had a good pace and stronger legs. I also tried to be careful in the bike, as I saw a lot of people crash," said Carey, who was greeted by husband, Kevin, at the finish line.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Suzie Snyder, Mieko Carey, Carina Wasle, Renata Bucher, Daz Parker, and Wong Jeong Choi pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Batting leaders released; Home Run Derby set

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Phillip Sablan of BTS-Martha's Survivors and Juan Maratita of the IT&E Fielders remain at the top spot of the batting leaders in the Juniors and Big League divisions, respectively.

Sablan has swung 7-for-12 for a 0.583 batting average, while Maratita has batted 9-for-16 for a 0.562 average.

Sablan's teammate Jeffrey Lizama is in second, batting 11-for-19 with a 0.578 average, while Rep. Ramon S. Basa Lions' Cedric Ada (10-for-19, 0.526), Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera (10-for-20, 0.500), Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets' Kent Kalen (7-for-15, 0.466), IT&E Fielders' Ian Rigolifoi (5-for-12, 0.416), Survivors' Esiah Cruz (7-for-18, 0.388), IT&E's Davin Ada (7-for-19, 0.368), Red Sox's Jonathan Cabrera (5-for-15, 0.333), IT&E's Keene Guerrero (5-for-15, 0.333), Jets' Nathan Sablan (5-for-15, 0.333), Ol'Aces' Kenji Yamagata (5-fo-16, 0.313), IT&E's Gayvan Uchau (4-for-13, 0.308) and Survivors' Jeremy Lizama (6-fo-r20, 0.300) rounded out the Junior League Top 14.

Sablan, Jeffrey Lizama and Guerrero are tied for most doubles hit with two apiece.

Jeffrey Lizama has crossed

See BATTING on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
IT&E Fielders' Ian Rigolifoi hits a homer against the Jets in their Junior League game last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.